



## Description of a new species of the rare genus *Epacrolaimus* Andrassy, 2000 (Dorylaimida, Aporcelaimidae) and new data on male of *Paraxonchium laetificans* (Andrassy, 1956) Altherr & Loof, 1969 (Dorylaimida, Paraxonchiidae) from Iran

MAJID PEDRAM<sup>1</sup>, EBRAHIM POURJAM<sup>1</sup> & MARIA T. VINCIGUERRA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran.

E-mail: majid.pedram@modares.ac.ir; pourjame@modares.ac.ir

<sup>2</sup> Department of Biological Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Catania, via Androne 81, I-95124 Catania, Italy.

E-mail: vincimar@unict.it

### Abstract

*Epacrolaimus reyesi* n. sp., an amphimictic species of a rare nematode genus, is described and illustrated. The new species is characterised by its long body (7.23–7.87 mm), 32 µm wide lip region, with well developed and distinct lips and liplets provided with longitudinal corrugation on their inner surface; 19–22 µm long odontostyle with a wide, arched aperture occupying ca 85% of its length; 45–56 µm long odontophore; 55–67 µm long rounded tail, nine regularly spaced ventromedian supplements in males and 135–145 µm long spicules. The new species is compared with two other known species of the genus, namely *E. declinatoaculeatus* (Kreis, 1924) Andrassy, 2000 and *E. imperator* Andrassy, 2000. Compared to the former, the new species has a rounded tail in females vs bluntly conoid, rounded on tip or with a minute peg, shorter tail (55–67 vs 63–75 µm) shorter spicules (135–145 vs 215 µm) and fewer male copulatory supplements (9 vs 12). Compared to the latter species, *E. reyesi* n. sp. is wider at the midbody region (172–178 vs 156–160 µm), and has a shorter tail (55–67 vs 84 µm in females and 58–65 vs 70–86 µm in males), shorter spicules (135–145 vs 202–210 µm) and fewer male copulatory supplements (9 vs 14–16). From both species the new species differs by having a rounded tail vs convex-conoid or slightly subdigitate. Beside the new species, a population of *Paraxonchium laetificans* (Andrassy, 1956) Altherr & Loof, 1969 with relatively numerous males was found from forests of northern Iran. The male of this species, which had not been found in Iran so far and had been described on two specimens only, is described and illustrated in detail.

**Keywords:** Dorylaimoidea, Iranian fauna, morphology, nematodes, taxonomy

### Introduction

After some taxonomic reports on Iran's plant-parasitic and free-living nematode fauna, concerning new or rare taxa of Longidoridae, Nordiidae, Actinolaimidae, Aulolaimoididae and Mydonomidae (Pedram *et al.*, 2012a; Pedram *et al.*, 2011a; Pedram *et al.*, 2010, Pedram, *et al.*, 2012 b; Pedram, *et al.*, 2011b, respectively), recently we paid attention to other taxa present in northern Iran forests and, as a first result, two interesting species were found, one of them revealed to be a new species of the rare genus *Epacrolaimus* Andrassy, 2000 (Aporcelaimidae), which is illustrated and described in the present article. The second species was identified as *Paraxonchium laetificans* (Andrassy, 1956) Altherr & Loof, 1969 (Paraxonchiidae).

The genus *Epacrolaimus* was established by Andrassy (2000) and currently contains two species, namely *E. declinatoaculeatus* (Kreis, 1924) Andrassy, 2000 and *E. imperator* Andrassy, 2000. Within the family Aporcelaimidae, this genus is characterised by having a very long body, lip region separated from the rest of body by a sharp constriction, well separated lips, odontostyle with a very large and wide aperture, pharynx expanding very anteriorly and wrinkled cuticle around vulva.

*P. laetificans* was originally described on a single male specimen (Andrassy, 1956); later, Heyns (1988) described numerous populations composed almost exclusively of females and a single male. In a recent study, Ban-