

NEW GENUS OF THE FAMILY ETHMOLAIMIDAE (NEMATODA: CHROMADORIDA), FOUND AT GULF OF CADIZ AND ANTARCTICA

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A new genus of the family Ethmolaimidae is described here, based on specimens from two reduced environments in the deep sea. Up until now, the family Ethmolaimidae contained eight genera: *Comesa*, *Ethmolaimus*, *Filithonchus*, *Gomphionchus*, *Gomphionema*, *Nannolaimus*, *Neothonchus* and *Trichethmolaimus*. The family characteristics are identified as: annulated cuticle bearing transverse rows of dots, cephalic sensilla arrangement 6+6+4, spiral amphid and oesophagus with muscular posterior bulb. The new genus resembles *Comesa*, but is typified by: a subterminal buccal cavity; three very small teeth easily overlooked: two ventrosublateral, one at the cheilostom pointing forward, one at the pharyngostom pointing laterally, and one small dorsal tooth at the pharyngostom pointing forward. Males have outstretched testes and conspicuous cup-shaped precloacal supplements. Females possess two antidromously reflexed ovaries. Both males and females have a conical tail with a rounded tip. This new genus was first identified in samples of the Gulf of Cadiz at the Darwin mud volcano (1100m deep) and afterwards also found in chemosynthetic sediments from the Larsen area (Weddell Sea) at 800m depth.

Keywords: Ethmolaimidae, new genus, reduced environments, deep sea.