of the characters of *Panagrolaimus* and *Neocephalobus* combined with the lineate, cephalated spicula resembling those of some Diplogasters.

Habitat.—Slime from unidentified disease of the Great Plains cottonwood, *Populus sargentii* Dode, collected near Magna, Utah, U. S. A.

(2) RENAMING OF HOMONYMS

Dr. Oehser has called the writer's attention to the fact that *Stegella* Thorne, 1937 (Cephalobidae) was preoccupied by *Stegella* E. Stechow, 1919, hydroid (1919, München Med. Wchnschr. (30), p. 852). Dr. Schwartz has also written that *Dorylaimus truncatus* N. A. Cobb, 1936 in Thorne and Swanger (1936, Capita Zool. 6:88) was preoccupied by *D. truncatus* (Cobb, 1913) Micoletzky, 1922 (Synonym: *Antholaimus truncatus* Cobb, 1913) (1922, Arch. Naturgesch., Abt. A, 87 (8-9):454). These homonyms are renamed as follows:

Stegella incisa Thorne, 1937, becomes *Stegelleta incisa* (Thorne, 1937), n. comb.

Dorylaimus truncatus N. A. Cobb, 1936, becomes *Dorylaimus cobbi*, nom. nov.

Aspiculuris caviellae, a new name for _Aspiculuris schulzi_ Freitas, Lent and Almeida, 1937, preoccupied. T. F. TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS, HERMAN LENT and J. LINS DE ALMEIDA, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.

We have recently received a communication from Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, informing us that the name *Aspiculuris schulzi* Freitas, Lent and Almeida, 1937 (Mem. Instit. Oswaldo Cruz 32(2): 195-209) was preoccupied by *Aspiculuris schulzi* Popov and Nazarova, 1930 (Vestnik Mikrob. Epidem. i Parazitol., Saratow, 9 (1): 105-108) which appeared in a paper unknown to us. We propose, therefore, for our species the name *Aspiculuris caviellae*, n. nom., and thank Dr. Benjamin Schwartz for the kindness of his communication.

A redescription of _Thelastoma robustum_ Leidy with comments on other species of the nematode family Thelastomatidae. J. R. CHRISTIE, U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

In 1850 Leidy (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 5:101-102) described under the name *Thelastoma robustum* a nematode found in the intestine of "a lamellicorn insect" presumably collected near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. So far as the writer is aware this nematode has never been reported by subsequent investigators and Leidy's brief description without figures constitutes our total information regarding it. While examining larvae of the scarabaeid beetle *Osmoderma scabra* Beau. collected at New Boston, New Hampshire, the writer removed from the posterior end of the alimentary tract nematodes that apparently are identical with Leidy's *T. robustum*. Larvae of *Xyloryctes satyrus* Fab. collected at Falls Church, Virginia, harbored specimens of the same species in the same location. The following description is based on material from these 2 collections.

Thelastoma robustum Leidy, 1850

Synonyms.—*Anguillula* (*Thelastoma*) *robusta* (Leidy) Diesing, 1861. *Aoroorus* (*Thelastoma*) *robustus* (Leidy, 1850) Walton, 1927.

Diagnosis.—Male 1.3 mm long by 85μ wide. Body distinctly annulated throughout, annules about 5μ wide near head increasing in width to 10 or 12μ at middle of body. Tail 130μ long, moderately slender. Alae conspicuous, extending from region of esophageal bulb to opposite proximal end of spicule, 20μ wide near middle of body (much wider in larval stages). Esophagus about 160μ long; corpus nearly cylindrical, about 110μ long by 14μ wide; isthmus about 19μ long by 12μ wide; bulb about 30μ wide with distinct valve. Intestine

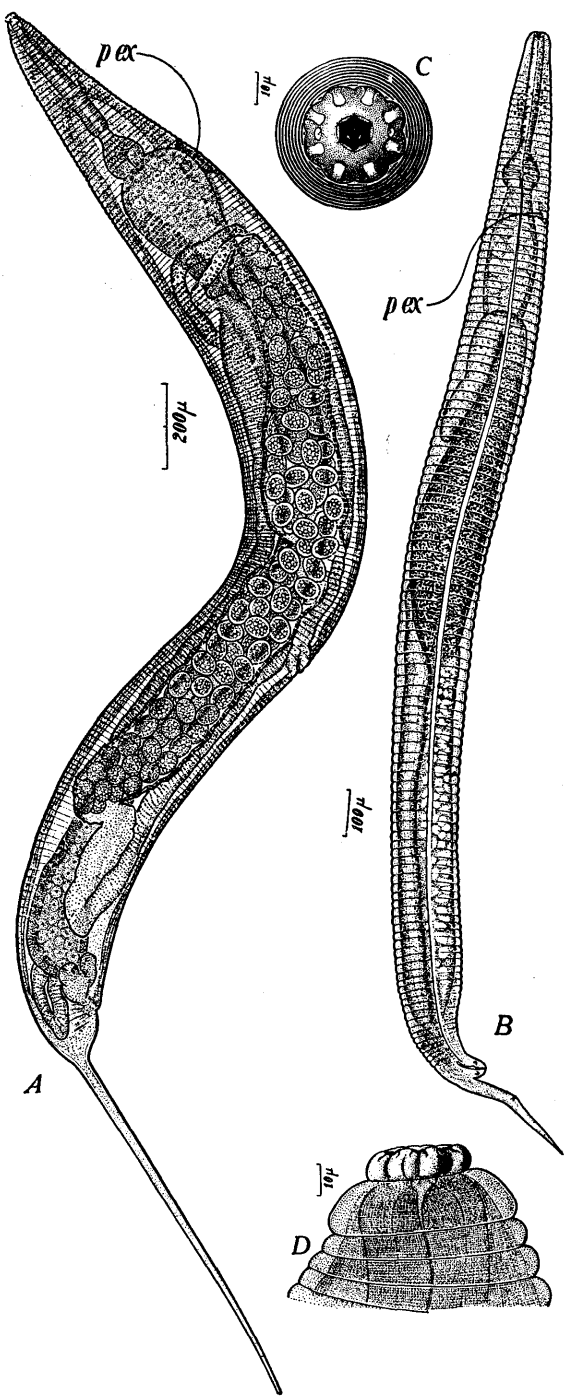

FIG. 22
Thelastoma robustum
A—Female. B—Male. C—Head of female, *en face* view.
D—Head of female, lateral view.

with anterior end moderately dilated. Nerve ring about 75μ from anterior end. Excretory pore about 200μ from anterior end or slightly posterior to base of esophagus. Testis wide, reflexed. Spicule 32 to 40μ long, slightly curved, bearing an enlargement on ventral side; distal end pointed. Anus situated on rounded elevation that bears 3 pairs of papillae, one pair slightly preanal, one pair slightly postanal and a fused pair, ventromedian and slightly postanal. A pair of papillae occurs on the tail about 50μ from the anus.

Female 3.9 to 4.4 mm long by 700 to 800μ wide. Cuticular annules vary in width from 8μ near the head to 20μ at middle of body. First annule back of head 19μ wide. Tail slender, spicate, 1.1 to 1.25 mm long. Alae inconspicuous. Head about 10μ long by 36μ wide, distinctly set off, 8-lobed when seen *en face*, each lobe bearing a labiopapilla about 3.5μ wide. Amphids distinct. Stoma about 10μ deep by 8μ wide, armed at base with 3 more or less tooth-like projections. Esophagus about 460μ long; corpus nearly cylindrical, about 340μ long by 40μ wide; isthmus about 30μ long by 30μ wide; bulb about 100μ wide, provided with distinct valve. Intestine pronouncedly dilated at its anterior end. Nerve ring about 250μ from anterior end. Excretory pore about 500μ from anterior end or slightly posterior to base of esophagus. Reproductive system amphidelphic; vulva not salient, slightly posterior to middle of body

when not including tail; vagina about 300μ long, directed anteriad. Egg ellipsoidal, 75μ long by 50μ wide, deposited before segmentation.

Hosts.—Larvae of *Osmoderma scabra* Beau and of *Xyloryctes satyrus* Fab.

Location.—Posterior end of alimentary tract.

Localities.—New Boston, New Hampshire, and Falls Church, Virginia, U.S.A.

The 8-lobed head of the female differentiates *Thelastoma robustum* from all other known species of *Thelastoma* except *T. labiatum* Leidy, 1850. In the latter species, however, the head is relatively larger and more distinctly set off and is divided into sectors by deep clefts. Females of *T. robustum* are larger and more robust than those of *T. labiatum*. The male of the latter has not been described. In the writer's opinion *T. myolabiatum* Cobb, 1929, is a synonym of *T. labiatum*.

Discrepancies between measurements noted in the above description and those given by Leidy appear to be within the limits of variation that one may expect for a species of this family. In a redescription (Leidy, 1853, Smithsn. Misc. Collect. 5:48) the tail is said to be "little more than one-eighth the length of the body" but the measurement given is 1/22 of an inch (1.15 mm). In the material at hand the tail, measured from the anus, is from 1.13 to 1.25 mm long. A marked variation was noted in the width of the alae on the male. In some specimens each of these structures had a width equal to the diameter of the body while in others the width did not exceed 20μ. Specimens possessing wide alae were apparently young individuals that had not undergone the final molt. In the Thelastomatidae larval stages frequently possess wide alae while on adults of the same species these structures are much narrower.

In a previous paper (Christie, 1931, J. Agr. Research 42(8):463-482) 4 species of thelastomatids were described as new. That one of these, *Scarabanema cylindricum*, is a synonym of *Cephalobellus papilliger* Cobb, 1920, has already been pointed out (Christie, 1933, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 23(7):358). The writer wishes to call attention to certain other errors that occurred in this same paper (Christie, 1931, loc. cit.).

(a) *Thelastoma papilliferum* Christie, 1931, is a synonym of *T. macramphidum* Christie, 1931. A study of additional material has demonstrated very convincingly that the characters used to differentiate these 2 alleged species were due to age differences. For example in young females that are beginning to deposit eggs the vulva does not protrude appreciably but as the individual grows older the vulva becomes more salient.

It also should be mentioned that *Thelastoma macramphidum* very closely resembles *T. alatum* Johnston (1914, Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland, 26:76-84). Describing the male of the latter species Johnston writes, "At each side of the hind portion of body is a prominent ala, which, just in front of the anal region, is somewhat arched and expanded. It becomes narrowed and then again widened to form a rather thin rounded lobe lying above the anus and terminating at the base of the tail." This structure is shown in figure 7 of Johnston's paper. Similar alae were not observed on the male of *T. macramphidum* and this appears to be the only difference between the 2 species.

(b) *Aorurus subcloatus* Christie, 1931 is a synonym of *A. agile* (Leidy, 1849) Baylis and Daubney, 1926. In his original description Leidy (1849, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 4:230-231) states, "Generative aperture situated about twenty-four rings above the anal aperture, which latter is placed between the last two annuli of the body." Through the courtesy of Dr. J. Percey Moore, University of Pennsylvania, the writer had the privilege of examining the material from the bottles in the Leidy Collection that contain the nematodes from millipeds. All specimens belonging to the genus *Aorurus* were of one species and were identical with the material on which the present writer based his *A. subcloatus*. Leidy was evidently in error regarding the position of the vulva and *A. subcloatus* must fall as a synonym of *A. agile* as Chitwood and Chitwood (1934, Philippine J. Sci. 52(4):387) already have indicated.