

ON A NEW NEMATODE *PARAHETERAKIS CHAUHANI* N. SP. FROM THE INTESTINE OF *FUNAMBULUS* SP. AT MEERUT DISTRICT, INDIA

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A SQUIRREL, *Funambulus* sp. in Meerut district was found infected with six males and three females of the genus *Paraheterakis*¹. The species is new to science and is being described here.

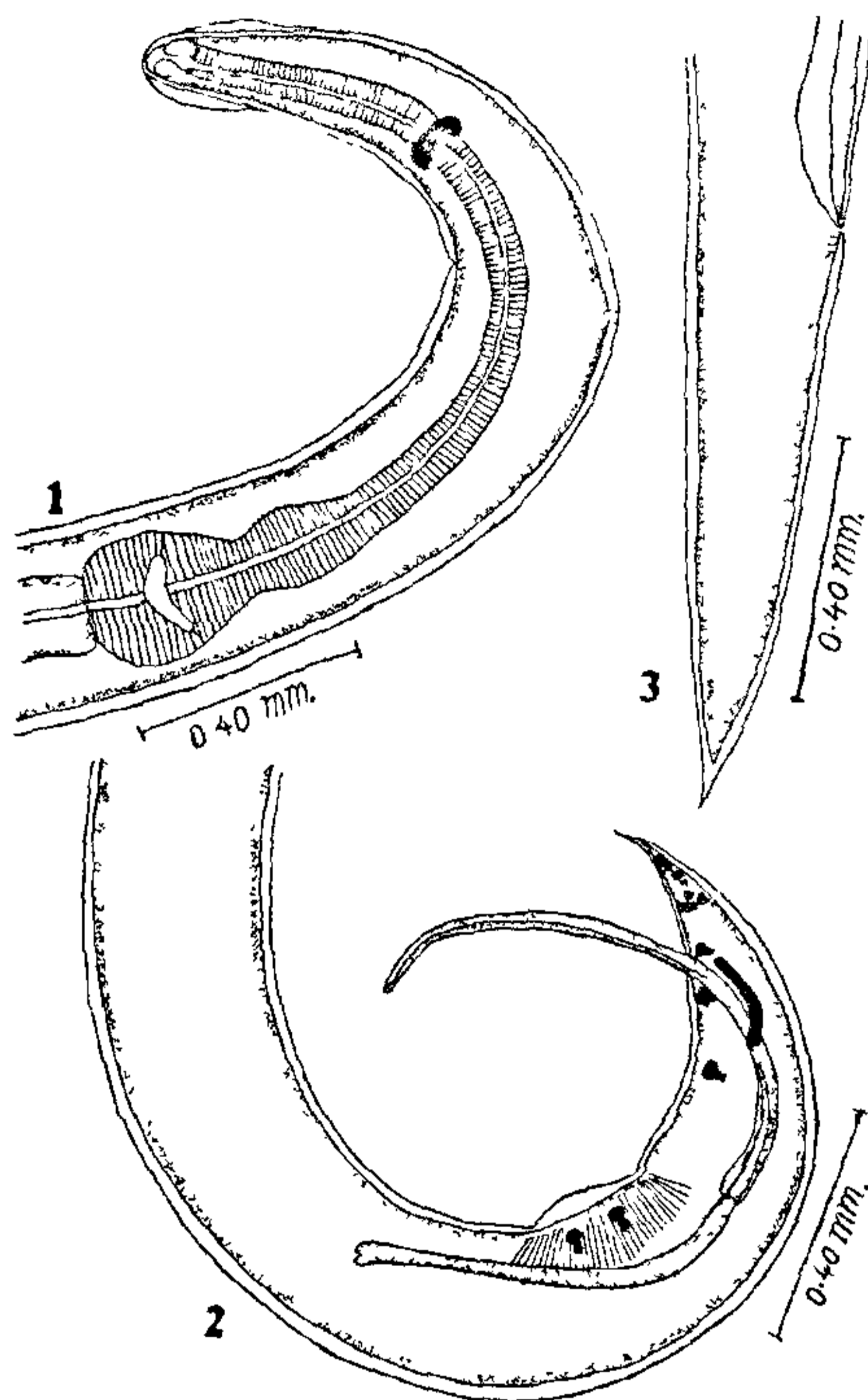
Paraheterakis chauhani n. sp.

Body cylindrical, elongate and medium sized. Cervical alae and buccal capsule well developed. An oesophageal bulb and posterior bulb containing trifold valve present. A definite pre-anal sucker with chitinous rim and gubernaculum present.

Male: (figure 1.) Body measuring 11.6–14.6 × 0.24–0.30 mm. Cervical alae well developed. Buccal capsule 0.04–0.07 × 0.07–0.09 mm. Oesophagus with oesophageal bulb 1.5–1.7 × 0.06–0.19 mm. Excretory pore 0.48–0.58 mm from the anterior extremity. Caudal papillae (figure 2) 12 pairs, three pairs pre-anal and pedunculate, two pairs adanal and pedunculate and seven pairs post-anal; two pairs pedunculate and five pairs sessile. Spicules equal 0.79–0.82 mm in length. Gubernaculum 0.33–0.36 mm. Tail 0.15–0.21 mm in length with a caudal process.

Female: (figure 3.) Body measuring 24.0–30.03 × 0.42–0.49 mm. Cervical alae present. Buccal capsule 0.06–0.07 × 0.10–0.11 mm. Oesophagus with oesophageal bulb 1.81–1.91 × 0.09–0.11 mm. Excretory pore 0.09–0.11 mm from the anterior extremity. Vulva pre-equatorial in position. Ovaries amphidelphic. Eggs oval to round, thick shelled 0.03–0.07 × 0.03–0.04 mm in size. Tail 1.2–1.4 mm in length with caudal process.

The genus *Paraheterakis* includes two species viz *Paraheterakis gubernaculi*¹ and *P. kirani* Tewari². The present form chiefly differs from both the species in the number and the arrangement of papillae (in *P. gubernaculi* the number of papillae are 11 pairs; 6 pairs pedunculate and 5 pairs sessile, while in *P. kirani* the



Figures 1–3. *Paraheterakis chauhani* n. sp. 1. Anterior end of male, 2. Posterior end of male and 3. Posterior end of female.

papillae are 13 pairs, 8 pairs sessile and 5 pairs semipedunculate). It further differs from *P. gubernaculi* in size of spicules (unequal in *P. gubernaculi* while equal in present form).

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1. Nama, H. S. and Jain, R. C., *Indian J. Helminthol.*, 1972, 24, 84.
2. Tewari, M. K., *Indian J. Parasitol.*, 1981, 5, 24.