PHYSIOLOGY OF NEMATODES

Frontispiece Plant-parasitic nematode (*Xiphinema*) feeding by means of its stylet upon the contents of the vascular tissue in a plant root. (Courtesy of D. L. Trudgill.)

PHYSIOLOGY OF NEMATODES

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Second Edition

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© D. L. Lee 1965
© 2nd Edition D. L. Lee and H. J. Atkinson 1976
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 2nd edition 1976

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First published 1965 by
Oliver and Boyd Ltd

2nd Edition published 1976 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
London and Basingstoke
Associated companies in New York Dublin
Melbourne Johannesburg and Madras

ISBN 978-1-349-02669-2 ISBN 978-1-349-02667-8 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-02667-8

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Preface

At one time nematodes were studied almost exclusively by plant pathologists and by parasitologists, but they are now also studied by biochemists, biophysicists, geneticists, immunologists, molecular biologists, pharmacologists and neurophysiologists, who see the nematode as an exciting and challenging animal suitable for many fields of fundamental and applied research.

During the ten years that have elapsed since the appearance of the first edition of this book, a large number of research papers and reviews and several books, which describe various aspects of the biochemistry, physiology, functional morphology and ecology of free-living and parasitic nematodes, have been published. This book is intended to be an introduction to the physiology, biochemistry and structure of nematodes for undergraduate students and their teachers, and is not intended as an exhaustive review of the subject, although it is hoped that research workers in the field may also find it useful.

The information in this book is based on many publications. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to include references to all of them; consequently many references are to books, reviews and recent papers and these will introduce the reader to the earlier, more detailed, literature. For this reason, reference to an author in the text does not imply that this author was the first to have made the observation in question.

We are indebted to Professor A. O. Anya, Dr K. S. Cheah, Dr D. J. McLaren, Mr D. R. Newall, Dr D. J. Wright and Dr K. A. Wright, who allowed us to read some of their work prior to publication, and to Mrs Marjorie Miles who typed the manuscript.

We are also indebted to the following for permission to reproduce illustrations and tables: Academic Press Inc. for figure 5.4 from *Experimental Parasitology*, figure 2.3 from *The Structure of Nematodes* by A. F. Bird, figure 2.6 from *The nature of Parasitism* by W. F. Rogers, figure 4.3 from *Comparative Biochemistry of Parasites* edited by H. Van den Bossche, figure 7.5 from *Chemical Zoology* vol. 3 edited by M. Florkin and B. T. Scheer, figures 5.1, 5.2 and 5.6 from *The Organization of Nematodes* edited by N. A. Croll, table 4.2 from *Advances in Parasitology* and table 2.1 from *Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics*; Cambridge University Press for figures 1.3, 2.2, 2.7, 3.6, 3.7, 5.3 and 8.6 from *Parasitology*; Association of Applied Biologists for figures 6.9, 8.5 and 9.7 from *Annals of Applied Biology*; The Society for Experimental Biology for figure 5.5 from *Symposia of the Society for Experimental Biology* vol. 23; The Company of Biologists Ltd, for figure 2.9 from *The Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* and figures 4.10 and 8.3 from *The Journal of Experimental Biology*; Dr M. B. Chitwood for figure 1.5 and part of figure 3.3 from *An Introduction to Nematology* by B. G. and M. B. Chitwood; Hutchinson & Co. for figures 3.6 and 7.4B

from *Nematodes* by H. D. Crofton; E. J. Brill Ltd, for figures 6.8, 9.3 and 9.8 from *Nematologica*; The University of North Carolina Press for figures 4.6 and 4.9 from *Nematology. Fundamentals and Recent Advances with Emphasis on Plant Parasitic and Soil Forms* edited by J. N. Sasser and W. R. Jenkins; the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office for part of figures 3.3 and 9.1 from *Plant Nematology* edited by J. F. Southey; The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene for figure 7.6 from *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*; The Washington Academy of Sciences for figure 9.6 from *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*; Helminthological Society of Washington for figure 7.1 from *Proceedings of the Helminthological Society of Washington*; Oliver & Boyd Ltd, for figures 2.4 and 2.5 from *Tissue and Cell*; The Rockefeller University Press for figures 7.2 and 7.3 from the *Journal of Cell Biology*; The Wistar Institute Press for figures 9.2, 9.4 and 9.5 from *The Journal of Comparative Neurology* and for figure 1.6 from *Journal of Morphology*; The American Society of Parasitology for part of figure 4.9 from *The Journal of Parasitology*; R. B. Clark for part of figure 8.1 from *Dynamics of Metazoan Evolution*; Annual Reviews Inc. for figures 3.8, 8.2, 8.4 and 8.9 from *Annual Reviews of Phytopathology*; H. R. Wallace and Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., for figure 8.7 from *The Biology of Plant Parasitic Nematodes*; The American Society of Zoologists for figure 7.4 from *American Zoologist*. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences for table 9.2 from *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.*; W. B. Saunders Co. and C. L. Prosser for table 9.1 from *Comparative Animal Physiology*; Birkhäuser Verlag for figure 7.5 from *Experimentia*.

Acknowledgements are made to authors by mentioning their names in the legend of the figures.

December 1975

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