Table 1. Surveyed areas: habitat from the different soil samples, positive to the presence of *H. bacteriophora*. (The number of samples with EPN specimens is shown in brackets).

Habitats	Region	Number of soil samples	EPN's species
Corn field	Alentejo	5 (1)	*H. bacteriophora*
Mediterranean grasslands ("*esteva* and *giesta"*)	Alentejo Algarve	4 (1) 5	*H. bacteriophora* -
Pinus pinea stand	Alentejo Algarve	8 (1) 8	*H. bacteriophora* -
Dunes	Alentejo	3	-
Olive trees field	Alentejo	24	-

Taq polymerase (BioPortugal), 1X reaction buffer, 1.25 mM $MgCl_2$, 200 µM each dNTP and 16 pmol each primer. The amplification programme was: one cycle at 95 ºC for 3 min followed by 30 cycles at 95 ºC for 1 min; 65 ºC 1 min 30 sec; and 72 ºC 2 min. The last step was at 72 ºC for 5 min. Products were run on 0.8 % agarose gels with 0.5 X TBE buffer. PCR products were purified using GFX PCR DNA and Gel Band Purification Kit (Amersham Biosciences) following the manufacturer's instructions. PCR products were sequenced in both directions by a contract sequencer (Macrogen Inc). For sequencing reaction, the primers used were: TW81 and AB28, with two additional internal primers, 58P (5´-ACGAATTGCAGACGCTTAG-3´) (forward) and H58R (5´-GTGCGTTCAAAACTTC

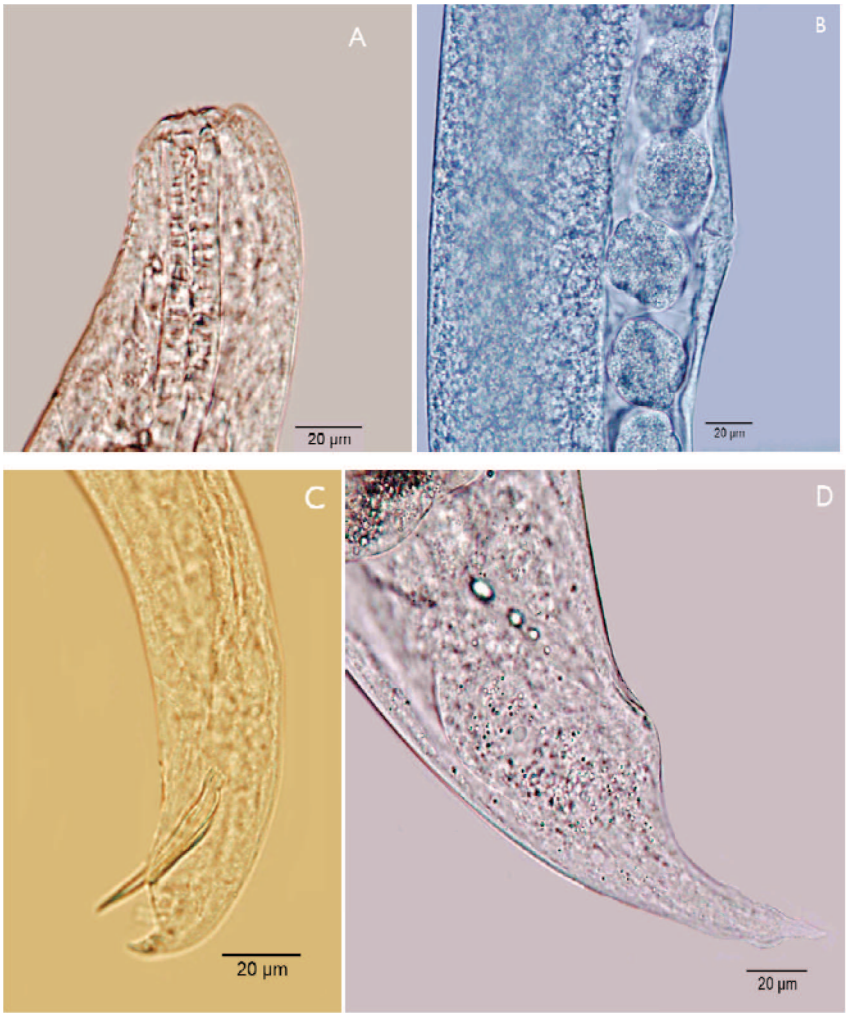

Fig. 1. *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*. A: Light micrograph (LM) of the anterior region of a hermaphroditic female. B: LM of vulval region. C: LM of male tail region. D: LM of female tail region