

Foreword

To most marine biologists the nematode component of their samples is an embarrassment and it often appears as 'unidentified worms' in survey reports. This *Synopsis* is the first of three which will be devoted to the marine members of this phylum and describes the nematodes belonging to the subclass Enoplia, so that these marine worms can be given the dignity of a name in field reports in the future. At the beginning of this *Synopsis* is a section dealing with the structure and biology of marine nematodes generally. This is followed by a pictorial key to help identify the different worldwide genera. Following usual editorial policy this introductory part and the pictorial key will be repeated with suitable modifications in the *Synopses* devoted to chromadorids and the monhysterids, so that each is complete in itself.

This is the first time that wholly pictorial keys combining several characters and character-combinations have been used in a synopsis. The Editors will be interested to hear how easy they are to use and if they are arranged in the best possible way upon the pages devoted to them. If readers could let the Editors have their comments within the next year or so it may be possible to incorporate them in further nematode *Synopses*.

The Authors state in their Introduction 'Any investigation of a new area is almost certain to encounter forms presently unknown from British waters and possibly new to science'. The detailed study of freeliving nematodes is clearly in its infancy and awaits workers, both with and without diving gear, to investigate these small but very abundant worms and to expand our knowledge of them. The Editors thank the Authors for the imaginative way in which they have presented their knowledge of this little understood group and sincerely hope that it will stimulate further investigations. We all anxiously await the appearance of the other *Synopses*, devoted to the chromadorid and monhysterid nematodes.

R. S. K. Barnes
Estuarine and Brackish-water
Sciences Association

Doris M. Kermack
The Linnean Society
of London