

**DESCRIPTION OF MARINE NEMATODE *THALASSIRONUS*
QATARENSE N.SP. (ENOPLIDA: IRONIDAE)
FROM ARABIAN GULF, QATAR**

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Abstract

A faunistic and ecological investigation of marine nematode from the Arabian Gulf provides the first record of the genus *Thalassironus* De Man, 1889 with *Thalassironus qatarense* as new to science and was described from subtidal sediments from Arabian Gulf at Qatar. *T. qatarense* n.sp. is most similar to *T. britannicus* De Man, 1889 in the number and arrangement of cephalic sensilla but differs from *T. britannicus* given by Platt & Warwick (1983) in smaller and more robust body, in position of the cervical sensilla and in the smaller length of the spicules and gubernaculum. (L = 3.4-4.3 vs 6.5-7.5 mm; a = 48-69 vs 84-88; the posterior cervical sensilla are posterior to the buccal cavity in females of *T. qatarense* n. sp. vs the four cervical sensilla are located at the level of the buccal cavity in *T. britannicus*; spicules = 48-57.6 vs 62-72 μ m; gubernaculum = 18-24.8 vs 30-38 μ m). It also differs from *T. britannicus* given by Chitwood, 1960 in smaller body, oesophagus, tail and spicule length (L = 3.4-4.3 vs 7.2 mm; b = 6.5-7.7 vs 9.2; c = 27-29.8 vs 35, spicule length = 48-57.6 vs 72 μ m). The new species is described and illustrated.