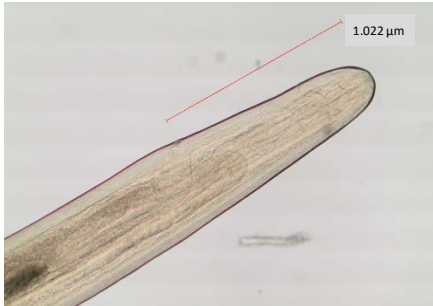


Additional file 2

Morphological features of *Acanthocheilonema spirocauda* collected from necroptized harbour seals at Sealcentre Pieterburen.

Filariae collected from the heart of necropsied harbour seals were identified to species level by morphological features and compared to the data from Anderson (1959) and Leidenberger and Boström (2008).

Female

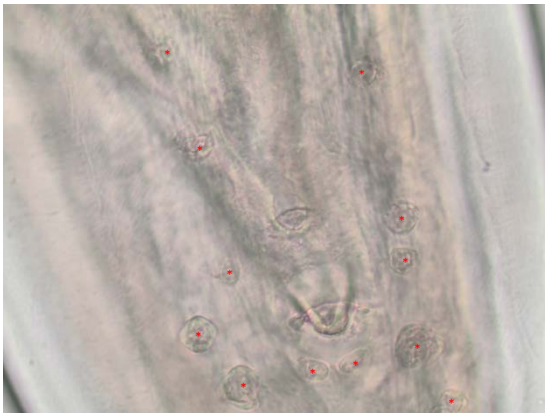


Vulva to anterior end



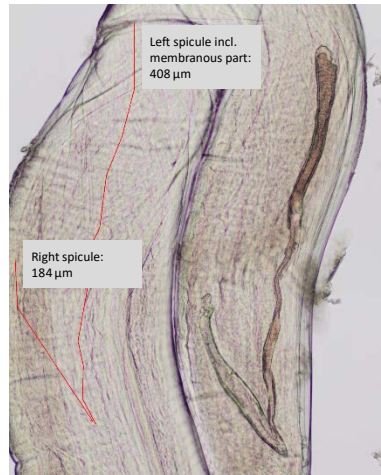
Anus to posterior end

Male



Papillae around the cloacal opening (*):

- One unpaired and three pairs of preanal papillae
- Four papillae in row immediately behind anus, the outer being larger, the inner oval and small
- one unpaired papilla behind the anus



Length of spicules: the left spicule (253 µm) has an extended, chitinized membranous part (sheath).

Length of *Acanthocheilonema spirocauda*

Male: 8.5 – 9.5 cm (mean 9.2 cm, n=3)

Female: 13 – 17.5 cm (mean 15.8 cm, n=6)

Microfilariae from terminal uterus: 186 – 189 µm (mean 188 µm, n=3)

Anderson RC. The taxonomy of *Dipetalonema spirocauda* (Leidy, 1858) n. comb. (=Skrjabinaria *spirocauda*) and *Dirofilaria roemeri* (Linstow, 1905) n. comb. (=Dipetalonema *roemeri*). *Can J Zool.* 1959;37:481–493. <https://doi.org/10.1139/z59-057>

Leidenberger S, Boström S. Characterization of the heartworm *Acanthocheilonema spirocauda* (Leidy, 1858) Anderson, 1992 (Nematoda: Onchocercidae) in Scandinavia. *Parasitol. Res.* 2008;104:63-67. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-008-1159-1>