179 Biology and taxonomic notes on sibling species of *Oncholaimium* (Nematoda: Enoplida) from Russian Far Eastern part of the Sea of Japan

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Species of the marine nematode genus *Oncholaimium* are widely distributed in the benthos of the Sea of Japan. We determined that the *Oncholaimium* complex from Russian Far Eastern part of the Sea of Japan was composed of at least three sibling species: *O. olium, O. paraolium* and *O. ramosum.* Populations from habitats in three localities have been compared. These three species are very similar in morphology. Multivariate analyses were done for 14 morphometric characteristics in males, and 13 in females. In addition, a series of minor variations in morphology were found (structure of terminal parts of the tubular organ, form of supplementary organ). The sympatric sibling species *Oncholaimium* complex form a series on the successional scale between the most perturbed conditions occupied by nematode *O. ramosum,* and less impacted, slightly more predictable and stable conditions, characterised by sub-littoral nematode *O. paraolium* and by littoral nematode *O. paraolium.* Detailed field studies of *O. ramosum* have found that it is a dominant member of the epifauna in areas subjected to severe organic disturbance and heavy metal and petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, and has the ability to withstand high levels of H_2S, a combination facilitating the primary opportunist role of this species of the complex.