

First Records of Two *Spirostomum* Ciliates (Heterotrichea: Heterotrichida: Spirostomidae) from Korea

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ABSTRACT

Two *Spirostomum* species collected from freshwater in Korea were identified as *S. caudatum* (Müller, 1786) and *S. teres* (Claparède and Lachmann, 1858). They are recorded for the first time in Korea. The description was based on the observation of living specimens and protargol impregnated specimens. Diagnostics of these species are as follows. *Spirostomum caudatum*: body size 400–450 × 20–30 μm *in vivo*, shaped long and slender with a tapered posterior part, highly contractile; macronucleus ellipsoid; adoral zone of membranelles occupied 30% of body length; somatic kineties 14–22 in number. *Spirostomum teres*: body size 240–460 × 25–40 μm *in vivo*, shaped long and slender with a flattened posterior end, highly contractile; cortical granules arranged in 2–3 rows; adoral zone of membranelles occupied 50% of body length; somatic kineties 20–30 in number; macronucleus ellipsoid; micronuclei 2–3 in number. *Spirostomum caudatum* and *S. teres* are the most similar congeners, but they are different in the posterior part of body (tail-like posterior part vs. flattened posterior end), length of adoral zone of membranelles in body length (1/3 vs. 1/2), and the number of somatic kineties (14–22 vs. 20–30). These populations match with European populations in morphological characters.

Keywords: *Spirostomum*, morphology, redescription, taxonomy, freshwater, Korea

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Spirostomum* is assigned to the family Spirostomidae, order Heterotrichida, class Heterotrichea within the phylum Ciliophora. The family Spirostomidae is characterized by a highly contractile body, holotrichous somatic ciliation, long oral region in the anterior half and habitats in freshwater and brackish water. Within the family Spirostomidae four genera have been recognized until now (Lynn, 2008). The genus *Spirostomum* Ehrenberg, 1833 is differentially diagnosed by a long collecting canal in the contractile vacuole, a truncated posterior end and a long buccal field on the body edge (Curds et al., 1983). Since the establishment of the genus *Spirostomum* by Ehrenberg, 1833, nine species have been described worldwide (Claparède and Lachmann, 1858; Kahl, 1932; Shigenaka, 1959; Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986; Foissner et al., 1992). In this study, two *Spirostomum* species were isolated and reported here for the first time in Korea. We provide morphological descriptions of two *Spirostomum* species for the study of Korean ciliate diversity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection and culture

Spirostomum caudatum was collected from a freshwater pond near the Simnidaebat (Bamboo Forest) located near the bank of the Taehwa River, Ulsan (35° 32'55"N, 129° 18'40"E), Korea on 9 March 2009. *Spirostomum teres* was collected from a freshwater pond in Gulhwa-ri, Beomseo-eup, Ulju-gun, Ulsan (35° 33'31"N, 129° 15'08"E), Korea on 16 May 2011. The surface sediments (~10 cm) including water were collected and transferred to Petri dishes with debris, then maintained in the laboratory for several days at room temperature. Meanwhile, a few wheat grains were added to the raw culture for the enrichment of the bacteria and ciliates (Li et al., 2010).

Morphological observation

Cells were observed *in vivo* first using a dissecting microscope, and then with high magnification under an optical microscope (× 50–1,000). The infraciliature was revealed by

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protargol impregnations (Wilbert, 1975). Drawings of living cells were based on free-hand sketches, and those of the impregnated cells were made with a drawing device and photos. The classification and terminology are basically according to Lynn (2008).

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNTS

Phylum Ciliophora Doflein, 1901
 Subphylum Postciliodesmatophora Gerassimova and Servin, 1976
 Class Heterotrichea Stein, 1859
 Order Heterotrichida Stein, 1859
 Family Spirostomidae Stein, 1867
¹*Genus *Spirostomum* Ehrenberg, 1833

²**Spirostomum caudatum* (Müller, 1786) Delphy, 1939
 (Tables 1, 2, Fig. 1)

Enchelis caudata Müller, 1786: 34.

Spirostomum filum Penard, 1922: 200; Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986: 375.

Spirostomum caudatum: Delphy, 1939: 144; Repak and Isquith, 1974: 328; Foissner et al., 1992: 324.

Diagnosis. Body size 400-450 × 20-30 μm *in vivo*; body shape cylindrical, slender with tail-like posterior end, ellipsoidal macronucleus, 13-18 somatic kineties, adoral zone about 30% of body length; and 48-56 adoral membranelles.

Description. Body size 400-450 × 20-30 μm *in vivo*. Body shape cylindrical, slender with tail-like posterior end, anterior end slightly beaked, length to width ratio about 17 : 1 (Fig. 1A, C), body fusiform when contracted (Fig. 1B, F). Macronucleus ellipsoidal, located near mid-body, size about 30 × 20 μm *in vivo* (Fig. 1A, B, F). Contractile vacuole located in tail-like posterior region (Fig. 1D). Body flexible. Cytoplasm colored slightly yellowish brown. Cortical granules arranged in 2-3 irregular rows between somatic kineties (Fig. 1E). Movement relatively slow, usually gliding on the bottom. Somatic kineties arranged 13-18 longitudinally in impregna-

Table 1. Morphometrical characterization of *Spirostomum caudatum* (C) and *S. teres* (T)

Characteristics	Species	Method	Mean	Med	Min	Max	SD	SE	CV	n	
Body, length (μm)	C	L	409	400	400	450	17	5.13	4.16	11	
		S	137	130	120	160	14.01	4.67	10.24	9	
	T	L	321	325	240	457	46.11	9.41	14.17	24	
		S	192	191	157	237	23.73	5.59	12.43	18	
	Body, width (μm)	C	L	25	20	20	30	5.22	1.57	21.28	11
			S	56	56	43	70	7.65	2.55	13.55	9
T		L	32	32	27	38	3.57	0.52	8.05	24	
		S	89	90	73	109	11.90	2.80	13.17	18	
Body length/width, ratio		C	L	17	20	13	23	3.84	1.16	22.09	11
		T	L	9.90	9.96	6.35	12.92	1.37	0.28	13.72	24
Ma, length (μm)	C	L	30	30	30	35	1.51	0.45	4.95	11	
	T	L	41	41	40	52	4.94	1.59	14.35	14	
	S	55	56	41	70	8.56	2.21	15.32	15		
Ma, width (μm)	C	L	20	20	18	21	0.70	0.21	3.52	11	
	T	L	13	13	10	16	2.12	0.57	16.57	14	
	S	23	24	19	31	3.46	0.89	14.50	15		
Mi, diameter (μm)	T	L	3	3	3	5	0.43	0.09	13.80	22	
Mi, number	T	L	2	2	2	3	0.37	0.09	17.36	19	
AZM length/body length, ratio	C	L	0.31	0.33	0.28	0.35	2.10	0.63	6.69	11	
	T	L	0.43	0.43	0.40	0.49	0.03	0.01	5.94	20	
	S	0.44	0.44	0.37	0.49	0.05	0.01	10.98	18		
Somatic kineties, number	C	S	15	15	13	18	1.72	0.70	11.61	6	
	T	S	23	24	20	30	2.94	0.78	12.23	14	
Adoral membranelles, number	C	S	54	54	48	56	3.59	1.27	6.70	8	
	T	S	87	86	80	92	3.74	1.00	4.32	14	
Dikinetids of undulating membrane, number	C	S	20	18	17	24	3.24	1.45	16.20	5	
	T	S	39	39	34	47	3.90	1.04	9.88	14	
Undulating membrane, length (μm)	C	S	14	15	10	17	2.61	1.17	18.11	5	
	T	S	19	19	17	22	1.49	0.38	7.72	15	

Data are based on live (L) and impregnated specimens (S).

Mean, arithmetic mean; Med, median value; Min, minimum; Max, maximum; CV, coefficient of variation in %; Ma, macronucleus; Mi, micronucleus (pl. micronuclei); AZM, adoral zone of membranelles.

Korean name: ¹*나선입섬모충속, ²*꼬리나선입섬모충

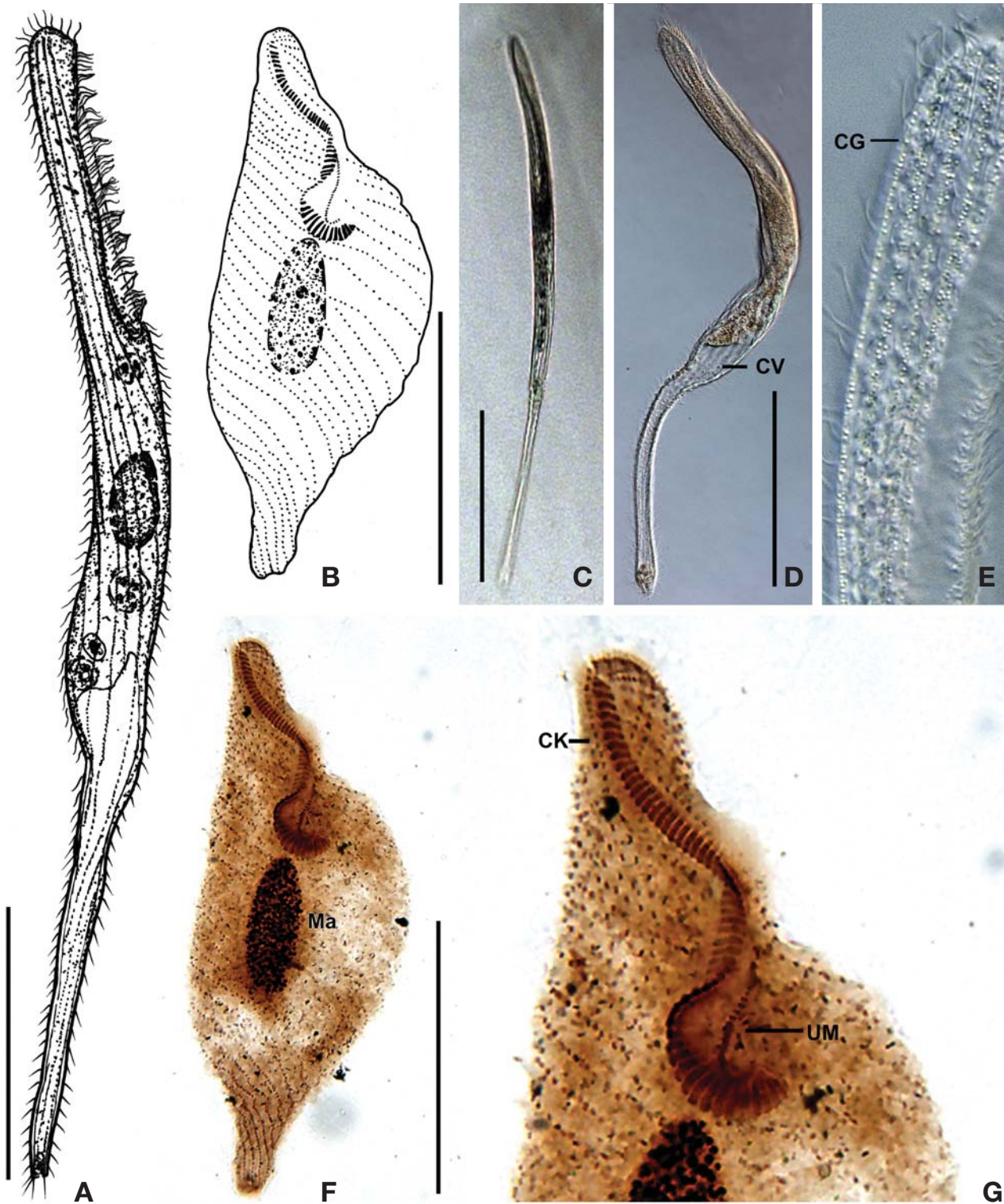


Fig. 1. *Spirostomum caudatum* from live specimens (A, C-E) and after protargol impregnation (B, F, G). A, C, The typical individuals; B, F, Ventral infraciliature; D, The twisted body and contractile vacuole; E, The cortical granules; G, Buccal field. CG, cortical granule; CK, circumoral kinety; CV, contractile vacuole; Ma, macronucleus; UM, undulating membrane. Scale bars: A, C, D=100 μ m; B, F=70 μ m.

Table 2. Comparisons of most similar species of genus *Spirostomum*

Characters	<i>S. caudatum</i>	<i>S. caudatum</i>	<i>S. teres</i>	<i>S. teres</i>	<i>S. teres</i>	<i>S. teres</i>	<i>S. teres</i>	<i>S. yagiui</i>
Body length × width (<i>in vivo</i> , μm)	400-450 × 20-30	200-700	240-457 × 27-38	150-600 × 20-75	100-400	150-400	300-560	320-480 × 24-32
Body length/Body width, ratio	13-23 : 1	10-20 : 1	6-13 : 1	10-15 : 1	–	10-12 : 1	–	12-18 : 1
AZM length/Body length, ratio (%)	28-35	20-30	40-49	40-50	ca. 40	ca. 34	ca. 50	ca. 50
Adoral membranelles, number	48-56	–	80-92	–	ca. 120	–	–	130-140
Macronucleus, shape	Ellipsoid	Ellipsoid	Ellipsoid	Ellipsoid	Ellipsoid	Ellipsoid	Ellipsoid	Rod
Micronuclei, number	–	1	2-3	1-2	2	–	–	3-7
Micronuclei, shape	–	Ellipsoid	Lenticular	Lenticular	Lenticular	–	–	Spherical
Somatic kineties, number	13-18	28-32	20-30	25-30	12-24	–	20-27	ca. 20
Cortical granules, number of rows between somatic kineties	2-3	ca. 2-3	2-3	2-3	–	–	–	–
Cortical granules, color	Colorless	–	Colorless	Lemon-yellow	–	–	–	–
Habitat	Freshwater	Freshwater	Freshwater	Freshwater	Mostly freshwater	Freshwater or salt-water	Salt-water	Salt-water
Data source	Present study	Foissner et al., 1992	Present study	Foissner et al., 1992	Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986	Kahl, 1932	Al-Rasheid, 1999	Shigenaka, 1959

–, data unavailable.

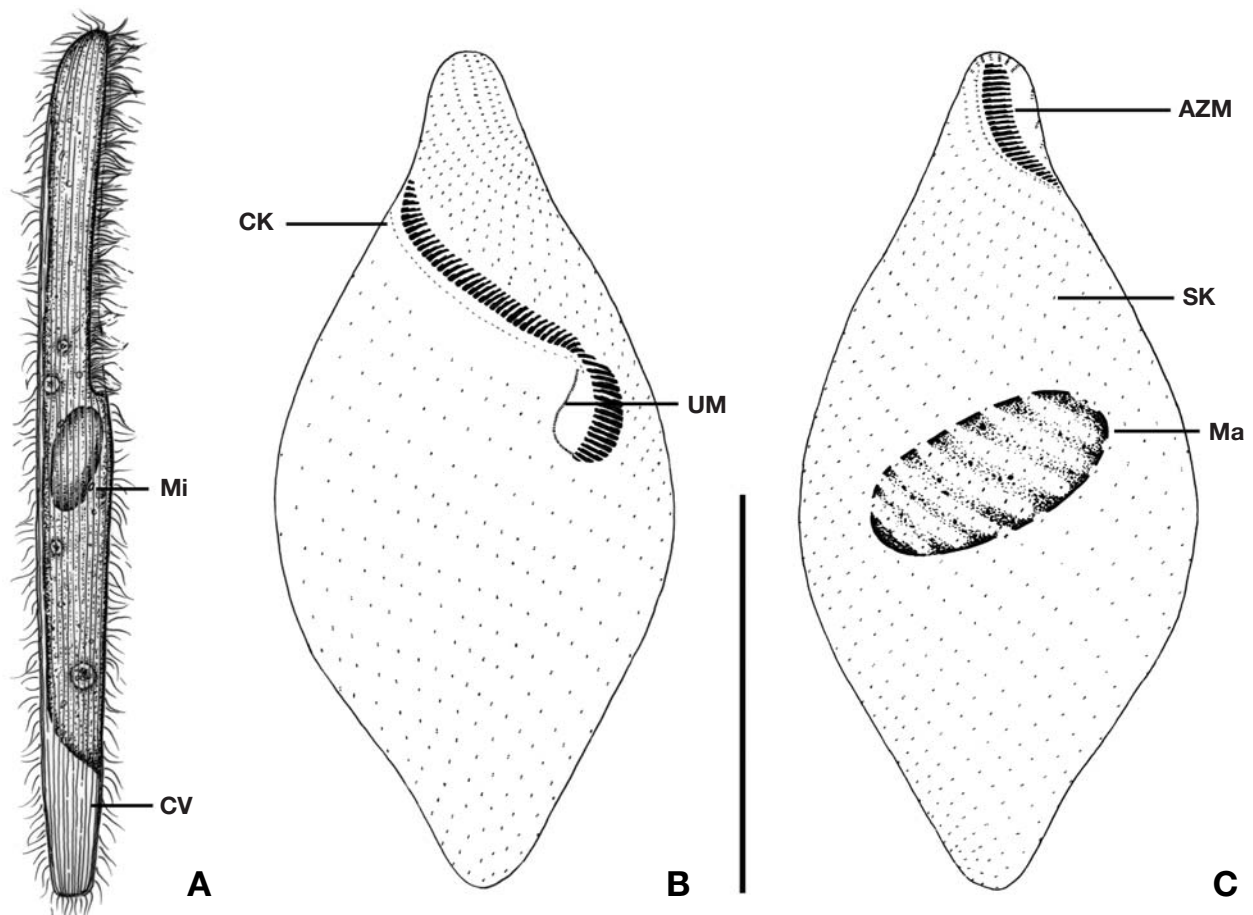


Fig. 2. *Spirostomum teres* from a live specimen (A) and after protargol impregnation (B, C). A, Right side view of a typical individual; B, Infraciliature pattern of ventral side; C, Infraciliature of dorsal side. AZM, adoral zone of membranelles; CK, circumoral kinety; CV, contractile vacuole; Ma, macronucleus; Mi, micronucleus; SK, somatic kinety; UM, undulating membrane. Scale bars: A-C=100 μm.

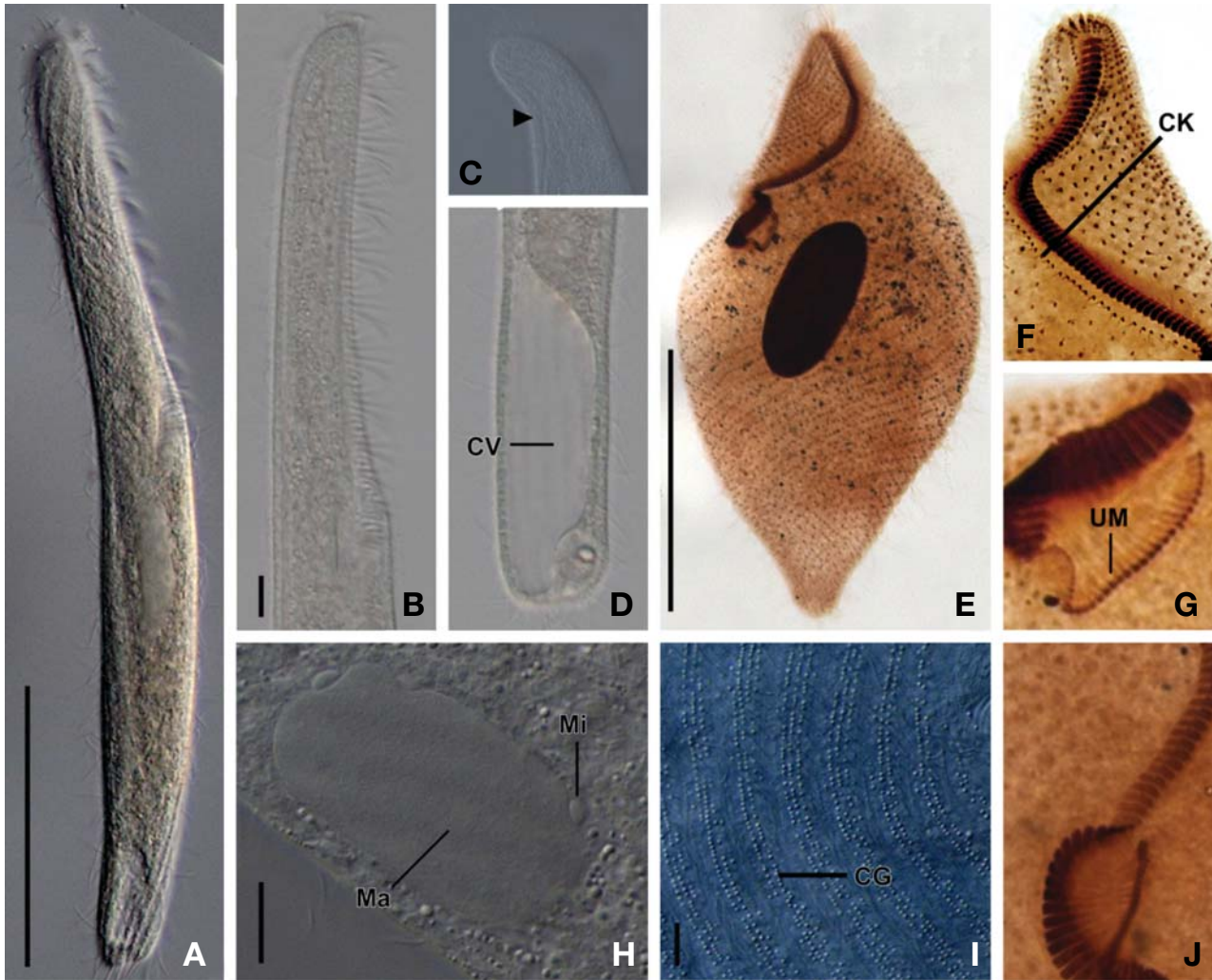


Fig. 3. *Spirostomum teres* from live specimens (A-D, H, I) and after protargol impregnation (E-G, J). A, Right side view of a typical individual; B, Buccal field in anterior body end; C, Extending canal at anterior body end (arrowhead); D, Contractile vacuole in posterior body end; E, Infraciliature pattern and nuclear apparatus; F, Circumoral kinety beside AZM; G, Undulating membrane in buccal field; H, Macronucleus and micronucleus; I, Cortical granules pattern between two somatic ciliary rows; J, Twisted adoral zone of membranelles in proximal end of AZM. AZM, adoral zone of membranelles; CG, cortical granule; CK, circumoral kinety; CV, contractile vacuole; Ma, macronucleus; Mi, micronucleus; UM, undulating membrane. Scale bars: A, E=100 μ m; B, H=10 μ m; I=5 μ m.

tion but arranged spirally when contracted (Fig. 1B, F). Adoral zone occupied 28-35% of body length (Fig. 1A); adoral zone of membranelles near proximal end twisted one time in impregnated specimens and consisted of 48-56 membranelles (Fig. 1B, F). Undulating membrane consisted of 17-24 dikinetids, near proximal end of adoral zone (Fig. 1G). Circumoral kinety arranged on right side of adoral zone, dikinetids densely in one row (Fig. 1G).

Distribution. Africa, Europe and Asia (Korea [present study]).

Remarks. The Korean population of *Spirostomum caudatum* is in good agreement with the subsequent redescriptions in

body size, tail apparatus, number of somatic ciliary rows, and presence of cortical granules (Foissner et al., 1992) (Table 2).

Spirostomum caudatum (Müller, 1786) is similar to *S. teres* Claparède and Lachmann, 1858, and *S. yagiui* Shigenaka, 1959, in respect to its single macronucleus. However, *S. caudatum* and *S. teres* are distinguished by the shape of the posterior end (tail-like vs. blunted), the ratio of the oral length to body length (20-30% vs. 40-50%), and the arrangement of the cortical granular rows (irregular vs. regular) (Table 2) (Foissner et al., 1992).

Spirostomum caudatum and *S. yagiui* are different in the ratio of the oral length to body length (28-35% vs. about 50%),

the number of adoral membranelles (48-56 vs. 130-140), the shape of the macronucleus (ellipsoid vs. rod-shape), the number of micronuclei (1 vs. 3-7) and the habitat (freshwater vs. salt-water) (Table 2) (Shigenaka, 1959; Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986; Foissner et al., 1992).

¹**Spirostomum teres* Claparède and Lachmann, 1858
(Tables 1, 2, Figs. 2, 3)

Spirostomum teres Claparède and Lachmann, 1858: 233; Stein, 1867: 190; Kahl, 1932: 440; Wang and Nie, 1935: 471; Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986: 378; Foissner et al., 1992: 332; Al-Rasheid, 1999: 130.

Diagnosis. Body size 240-460 × 30-40 μm *in vivo*; shaped long and slender; macronucleus ellipsoidal; 2-3 micronuclei; cortical granules regularly arranged in 2-3 rows between somatic kineties; 20-30 somatic kineties arranged longitudinally; adoral zone of membranelles covered about 40-50% of body length with 80-92 adoral membranelles.

Description. Body size 240-460 × 30-40 μm, usually about 330 × 30 μm *in vivo*. Body shaped long and slender with tapered anterior and blunted posterior ends, length to width ratio about 10 : 1 (Figs. 2A, 3A), and body fusiform when contracted. Macronucleus ellipsoidal, located at mid-body, size about 56 × 24 μm in impregnated specimens, 2-3 ellipsoidal micronuclei, attached to a macronucleus, about 3 μm in diameter (Fig. 3E, H). Contractile vacuole located terminally, occupied about 1/4-1/7 of body length with a long canal extending anteriorly (Figs. 2A, 3C, D). Body flexible. Cytoplasm colorless. Cortical granules arranged regularly in 2-3 rows between somatic kineties, colorless, about 0.5 μm in diameter *in vivo* (Fig. 3I).

Movement relatively slow, usually gliding on the bottom. Somatic kineties arranged longitudinally 20-30 in number, but spirally when contracted, consisted of dikinetids, commenced along the apical end to left side of the adoral zone of the membranelles (Figs. 2B, C, 3E), somatic cilia about 8 μm in length. Adoral zone of membranelles occupied 40-50% of body length (Figs. 2A, 3A), proximal end twisted one time in impregnated specimens (Fig. 3J), and consisted of 80-92 membranelles with each about 10 μm in length (Figs. 2B, C, 3B). The undulating membrane consisted of 34-47 dikinetids (Fig. 3G), near the proximal end of the adoral zone, length about 19 μm. A circumoral kinety arranged at right side of adoral zone, with dikinetids densely in one row (Fig. 3F).

Distribution. Africa, Asia (China, Korea [present study], Saudi Arabia, Turkey), Europe.

Remarks. The Korean population of *Spirostomum teres* closely resembles the Asian, African and European popula-

tions with respect to the ratio of the adoral zone membranelles /body length, the shape of the macronucleus and micronuclei, the number of somatic ciliary rows, and the habitat (Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986; Foissner et al., 1992). However, this Korean population slightly differs from the German population in the color of the cortical granules (lemon-yellow to colorless vs. lemon-yellow), from the African population in the number of adoral membranelles (80-92 vs. about 120) and the number of somatic kineties (20-30 vs. 12-24), and from the Baltic Sea and Arabian Gulf populations (freshwater vs. salt water). The populations of *S. teres* have been recorded in different salinities of habitats so far (Table 2) (Claparède and Lachmann, 1858; Kahl, 1932; Dragesco and Dragesco-Kernéis, 1986; Foissner et al., 1992; Al-Rasheid, 1999; Şenler and Yildiz, 2004). Therefore, it will be needed to disclose the variation caused by environmental gradients using independent criteria like molecular markers or others.

Spirostomum teres and *S. yagiui* are different with respect to the ratio of body length/width (6-13 : 1 vs. 12-18 : 1), the number of adoral membranelles (80-92 vs. 130-140), the shape of the macronucleus (ellipsoid vs. rod-shape), the number of micronuclei (2-3 vs. 3-7) and the habitat (freshwater vs. salt-water) (Table 2) (Shigenaka, 1959; Foissner et al., 1992).

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