

A Revision of the Genus *Mediomastus* Hartman, 1944 (Polychaeta: Capitellidae)

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ABSTRACT. The genus *Mediomastus* is redefined, and nine species are recognised. Three of these are new species, and one, *M. deductus*, is transferred from the genus *Heteromastus*. Three further species probably belong in *Mediomastus* but there is insufficient information available to confirm this. Two further species originally placed in *Mediomastus* are shown to belong in other genera. A full description of each species is given, based upon the re-examination of type material. Two tables indicating all the relevant diagnostic characters of all described species of *Mediomastus* are given. Comments are made on the validity of the characters that have been used traditionally in capitellid taxonomy. Setal characteristics are the most diagnostic and these should be examined by SEM as well as by light microscopy. However, identification of species of *Mediomastus* requires a combination of diagnostic characters.

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Hartman (1944) erected the genus *Mediomastus* with the following characteristics, a thorax of 11 segments, including a well-developed asetigerous peristomial ring; segments 2 to 5 with capillary setae and segments 6 to 11 with hooded hooks. *Mediomastus californiensis* Hartman was designated as the type species. This genus has been well accepted and nine additional species have subsequently been assigned to it.

The original description of *Heteromastus filiformis* (as *Capitella filiformis*) by Claparède (1864) referred to

ten thoracic segments, the first four with capillary setae and the following six with hooded hooks, which conforms to the above definition of *Mediomastus*. However, according to Eisig's (1887) original diagnosis of *Heteromastus*, there are 11 thoracic setigers, of which the first five have capillary setae. This definition has been followed by all subsequent workers. Hutchings & Rainer (1981) designated a neotype of *Heteromastus* in accordance with Eisig's definition, to legitimise the use of *Heteromastus* Eisig. Hutchings