# Notes on Revised Cirratulid Taxonomy for Key (v. 2.00) July 97/98

There are a few taxonomic changes to be made in the light of new literature and observations made at the workshop and by experts, which are summarised below. However, we have not completed substantial literature revisions and there are many problems yet to be resolved, particularly in the genera *Dodecaceria*, *Cirratulus* and *Aphelochaeta*.

#### Caulleriella

Examination of workshop specimens showed that examples corresponding to *Caulleriella* cf. *viridis* (without pygidial cirri) may be found in the same sample as *C. bioculata* (with pygidial cirri but otherwise identical). It may be that there is only one species (*C. bioculata*) involved. *C. viridis* was originally described from Madeira and may not be present in British waters. Another similar species without pygidial cirri (*C. parva*) is included in Hartmann-Schroder (1996). The illustration shows a blunt prostomium but the key features given refer only to small size and few segments (which could be juvenile features). *C. caput-esocis* and *C. serrata* are also described in the same work. They are not typical of the genus and I have not yet seen definite material. *C. caput-esocis* seems to be similar to our *Cirratulus* "A".

#### Aphelochaeta

*Tharyx vivipara* and *T. multibranchis* have been transferred to the genus *Aphelochaeta* Hartmann-Schröder (1996). *A. vivipara* is not a typical *Aphelochaeta* and will probably eventually be transferred to yet another genus. *A. multibranchis* is a species with which we are not yet confident but should eventually be incorporated into the key. The status of our *Aphelochaeta* "A" and "B" is yet to be resolved.

### Dodecaceria

There are opposing views on the taxonomy of *Dodecaceria* spp. Gibson (1996) divides the majority of British species between *D. concharum* and *D. fimbriata* and has recently added *D. diceria* to the British list, from northern waters. This nomenclature was used in version 1.00 of the key, although the Dodecaceria spp. are indented as a sub-key, as a suggestion that the taxonomy was confused and that the recommendation was to leave them identified at the generic level.

However, others (eg. M. Petersen pers. comm.) regard the true *D. concharum* (type of the genus) as being the species identified as *D. fimbriata* by Gibson. The species identified as *D. concharum* by Gibson is then referred to as *D. ater*. As the issue is still confused to us, we would still recommend leaving their identification at the generic level for the time being.

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## References

George, J.D., & Petersen, M.E. 1991. The validity of the genus Zeppelina Vaillant. Ophelia Supplement. 5: 89-100.

Gibson, P.H. 1996. Distribution of the cirratulid polychaetes *Dodecaceria fimbriata*, *D. concharum* and *D. diceria* in European waters between latitudes 48N and 70N. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, 76: 625-635.

Hartmann-Schroder, G. 1996. Annelida, Borstenwurmer, Polychaeta. Jena, Gustav Fischer. (Die Ttierwelt Deutschlands, No. 58).

Petersen, M.E., George, J.D., Blake, J.A., Fauchald, K., & Ockelmann, K.W. 1996. Comments to Case 2899. Recommendation that Gibson & Heppell's requests to the ICZN in Case 2899 (deliberate misidentification of type species of *Dodecaceria* Oersted, 1843 (Annelida: Polychaeta) by designation of a neotype from a nontype locality and based on a species not available to Oersted) not be approved, with an appendix by Mary E. Petersen with synonymies of the involved taxa. Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature,