

prostomiums should be examined to verify whether a retracted palpode is present or absent. The prostomium may or may not have eyespots, which may be paired or may form a diffuse pattern. They occur anterior to nuchal organs, and do not occur on the peristomium as indicated by Warren et al (1994). They may not be visible in all specimens of a collected species, and use of this character should be with caution. Nuchal organs occur in slits at the base of the prostomium and may be everted in some specimens as a result of preservation. They may be impossible to see in small specimens, and may be difficult to see in larger specimens if the prostomium is somewhat retracted into the peristomium.

The probocis often is retracted, but when everted varies from being globular or sac-like to lobed. The surface may appear smooth or papillated, and the degree of papillation may vary between distal and proximal regions. While it has been observed that several genera share similar proboscideal characteristics, sufficient variation in this part of the anatomy occurs to warrant additional investigation regarding taxonomic usefulness. Members of *Dodecaseta* were found to share a similar lobed proboscis, which clearly differs in appearance from the globular proboscis seen in *Notomastus*. This as well as other morphological differences argue against the synonymy of *Dodecaseta* with *Notomastus* as proposed by Blake (2000).

The peristomium typically lacks setae. However, the occurrence of setae on the peristomium has been reported for a few genera, and has been considered a generic-level character. Subsequent review has clarified that this probably is not the case. For example, Warren (1991) reported that the peristomium in some species of *Capitella* may be difficult to see in preserved specimens and so indistinct as to be easily interpreted as being fused with the first thoracic setiger. Although *Capitellethus* has been reported to have setae on the peristomium (Hartman 1947, Fauchald 1977, Amaral 1980), it is believed this was misinterpreted from the drawing by Ehlers (1907). Review of several species of *Capitellethus* from Thailand indicates that the peristomium lacks setae. *Nonatus* Amaral (1980) is another genus that was described as having setae on the peristomium. However, it is suspected that Amaral (1980) misinterpreted the first thoracic setiger as being the peristomium. Review of his illustration shows the prostomium to be partially retracted into the peristomium, which is clearly illustrated as being anterior to the first setiger with setae.

Thorax. The junction between the thorax and abdomen in capitellids typically has been defined based on a change in the type of setae, change in the development of the parapodia, change in body width, or occurrence of a more distinct intersegmental groove. With the exception of Eisig (1887), who included meticulous illustrations of internal anatomy, the thorax has not been defined relative to correspondence to internal anatomy. For some species, the change in segment appearance between the thorax and abdomen is obvious. However, for many others, there is no apparent change in body appearance. In those cases, a change from capillary setae to hooded hooks or from one type of hooded hook to another type typically has been used to define a thorax/abdomen junction.