

DESIGNATION OF A NEOTYPE OF *CAPITELLA FILIFORMIS*
CLAPARÈDE, 1864, TYPE SPECIES
OF THE GENUS *HETEROMASTUS* (POLYCHAETA:
CAPITELLIDAE)

PAT HUTCHINGS

The Australian Museum, Sydney

and

SEBASTIAN RAINER

CSIRO Division of Fisheries & Oceanography, Cronulla, NSW Australia

SUMMARY

The synonymy of *Heteromastus filiformis* (Claparède, 1864) was examined to clarify the status of the genus *Heteromastus* Eisig, 1887. The synonymy is confused by inadequate descriptions and the absence of type material of *Capitella filiformis* Claparède, 1864, or of any of its synonyms. A neotype of *C. filiformis* Claparède was designated to stabilize the future use of *Heteromastus* Eisig.

INTRODUCTION

Heteromastus filiformis (Claparède, 1864) is a cosmopolitan species, occurring in a wide variety of habitats, and is commonly referred to in the ecological literature.

This species is also recognized by most workers as the type species of the genus *Heteromastus* Eisig, 1887. From Eisig's description, it is apparent that some confusion exists in the diagnostic characters of the genus *Heteromastus* as defined by the type species. Most subsequent workers have ignored this confusion, but we feel it is essential to redescribe the type species of *Heteromastus*, *H. filiformis*, to stabilize this common and widely distributed genus, and also to stabilize the genus *Mediomastus* Hartman, 1944.

The following abbreviations have been used below: AM W — Australian Museum; HMV — Zoologisches Institut, Hamburg; USFC — United States Fisheries Commission; USNM — United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution; YPM — Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale; MNHN — Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.