



Key to the Family Spionidae of SCAMIT (Ed. 13) and Local Provisional Species

Modified from MMS Atlas and Lovell & Pasko Spionidae Key

Definitions

MGS - Methyl Green Stain

- 1a. Branchiae absent; chaetiger 1 with 1 - 2 large, recurved neuropodial hooks in addition to capillary chaetae genus *Spiophanes* - 2
- 1b. Branchiae present; chaetiger 1 without large neuropodial hooks ----- 7

- 2a. (1a) Prostomium bell or "T"-shaped, with short or long lateral projections; prostomium without pigment spot; median antennae present or absent ----- 3
- 2b. Prostomium rounded anteriorly, without lateral projections; prostomium with medial orange pigment spot; median antennae absent; nuchal organs as dorsal loops extending to chaetiger 4 *Spiophanes wigleyi*
Pettibone, 1962

- 3a. (2a) Prostomium "T"-shaped with lateral projections ----- 4
- 3b. Prostomium bell shaped without lateral projections ----- 5

- 4a. (3a) Eyes present; nuchal organs to chaetiger 2 *Spiophanes norrisi*
Meißner & Blank, 2009
- 4b. Eyes absent; nuchal organs as grooves to chaetiger 3, then segmental grooves to mid-body *Spiophanes anoculata*
Hartman, 1960

- 5a. (3b) Median antennae present ----- 6
- 5b. Median antennae absent; chaetal spreader type "2+3"; nuchal organs are close-set, extending to chaetiger 12-13; MGS with a speckled ventral stain from chaetigers 3 or 4-8 *Spiophanes duplex*
(Chamberlin, 1919)

- ** note 3 choices ****
- 6a. (5a) Chaetal spreader type "0+1"; nuchal organs thin & set apart, extends to chaetiger 8-11; MGS with 3 mid-ventral stripes on anterior chaetigers, without a dark band on chaetiger 8, prostomium & peristomium unstained *Spiophanes fimbriata*
Moore, 1923
- 6b. Chaetal spreader type "1+2"; nuchal organs set apart at chaetiger 1, converging at chaetiger 3-4, then spreading apart; MGS with 3 mid-ventral stripes in anterior & a dark band on ventrum of chaetiger 8, forming a "T" on anterior ventrum *Spiophanes berkeleyorum*
Pettibone, 1962
- 6c. Chaetal spreader type "2+3"; nuchal organs thick, parallel lines extending to chaetiger 12-13; MGS with 3 mid-ventral stripes on chaetigers 1-8, without a dark band on chaetiger 8, prostomium and lateral peristomium staining *Spiophanes kimballi*
Meißner, 2005

7a. (1b) chaetiger 5 not modified, without specialized chaetae	-----	8
7b. chaetiger 5 modified, with specialized chaetae		Polydorid Complex - 40
8a. (7a) Notopodial postsetal lamellae of first 2 - 3 parapodia with 1 or more lobes; accessory branchiae present		genus <i>Dispio</i> - 9
8b. Notopodial postsetal lamellae of anterior parapodia entire; accessory branchiae absent	-----	10
9a. (8a)		
Accessory branchiae present from chaetiger 22-26; prostomium rounded at anterior edge with slight lateral expansions		<i>Dispio uncinata</i> Hartman, 1951
9b. Accessory branchiae present from chaetiger 11-15; prostomium tapers to sharp point at anterior edge		<i>Dispio</i> sp SD1 Rodríguez-Villanueva, 2018 §
10a. (8b) Branchiae limited to middle and posterior chaetigers, except for a single pair on chaetiger 2 in males		genus <i>Pygospio</i> - 11
10b. Branchiae from chaetiger 1 or 2 and continuing for a variable number of chaetigers	-----	12
11a. (10a) Branchiae first present from chaetiger 17 - 21		<i>Pygospio californica</i> Hartman, 1936
11b. Branchiae first present from chaetiger 11 - 12		<i>Pygospio elegans</i> Claparède, 1863
12a. (10b) Prostomium conical, distally pointed, occasionally blunt with minute point, or conical and distally tapering	-----	13
12b. Prostomium with distal lateral or frontal horns, broadly rounded, or incised on anterior margin	-----	18
13a. (12a) Branchiae fused to dorsal lamellae at least basally, continuing to end of body		genus <i>Scolelepis</i> - 14
13b. Branchiae completely free from dorsal lamellae, present on a variable number of anterior chaetigers, absent posteriorly		<i>Aonides</i> sp SD1 Langan, 2002 §
14a. (13a) Hooded hooks with curved shaft bearing long, pointed main fang oriented at approximately 90-100° angle to shaft, bearing 2 - 6 sharply pointed apical teeth		subgenus (<i>Parascolelepis</i>) - 15
14b. Hooded hooks with more or less straight shaft bearing short, falcate main fang oriented at an angle greater than 120° to shaft, surmounted by 0 - 2 small apical teeth		subgenus (<i>Scolelepis</i>) - 16
15a. (14a) Notochaetae present on chaetiger 1; neuropodial hooded hooks from chaetiger 15 - 16		<i>Scolelepis (Parascolelepis) tridentata</i> (Southern, 1914)
15b. Notochaetae absent on chaetiger 1; neuropodial hooded hooks from chaetigers 13 - 27		<i>Scolelepis (Parascolelepis) texana</i> Foster, 1971

16a. (14b) Notochaetae absent on chaetiger 1; branchiae and dorsal notopodial lamellae fused for most of length, free at tips; hooded hooks with 0 - 2 apical teeth	-----	17
16b. Notochaetae present on chaetiger 1; branchiae and dorsal notopodial lamellae basally fused; hooded hooks with 2 - 3 apical teeth		<i>Scolelepis (Scolelepis) squamata</i> (O. F. Müller, 1806)
17a. (16a) Branchiae with tips swollen, with glandular enlargement; hooded hooks with 2 apical teeth		<i>Scolelepis (Scolelepis) bullibranchia</i> Rossi, 1982
17b. Branchiae without swollen enlargement, hooded hooks with 0 - 2 small apical teeth		<i>Scolelepis (Scolelepis) occidentalis</i> (Hartman, 1961)
18a. (12b) Prostomium with lateral or frontal horns	-----	19
18b. Prostomium truncate, rounded or incised on anterior margin, without lateral or frontal horns	-----	20
19a. (18a) Branchiae from chaetiger 1		<i>Malacoceros indicus</i> (Fauvel, 1928)
19b. Branchiae from chaetiger 2		<i>Rhynchospio arenicola</i> Hartman, 1936
20a. (8ba) Branchiae present over most of the body	-----	21
20b. Branchiae present anteriorly only, for variable number of chaetigers	-----	31
21a. (20a) Branchiae from chaetiger 1	-----	22
21b. Branchiae from chaetiger 2	-----	26
22a. (21a) Prostomium distally entire; anterior neurochaetae without pseudoaristate spines; posterior neuropodial hooks with small secondary tooth distal		genus <i>Spio</i> - 23
22b. Prostomium incised anteriorly; neurochaetae of some anterior chaetigers with pseudoaristate chaetae; posterior neuropodial hooks with subdistal secondary tooth		<i>Pseudoatherospio fauchaldi</i> Lovell, 1994
23a. (22a) Branchiae of chaetiger 1 smaller than or equal to length of chaetiger 2, similar in appearance	-----	24
23b. Branchiae of chaetiger 1 at least 2 times longer than branchiae of other chaetigers, with expanded, lobed and ciliated tips, following branchiae cirriform, without expanded tips		<i>Spio maciolekae</i> Blake, 1996
24a. (23a) Hooded hooks bidentate	-----	25
24b. Hooded hooks tridentate; prostomium narrow, rounded anteriorly; Branchiae of chaetiger 1 distinctly shorter than those of chaetiger 2		<i>Spio maculata</i> (Hartman, 1961)

25a. (24a) Prostomium blunt to weakly incised on anterior margin	<i>Spio filicornis</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)
25b. Prostomium pointed, entire on anterior margin	<i>Spio butleri</i> Berkeley & Berkeley, 1954
26a. (21b) Interramal pouches present	genus <i>Laonice</i> - 27
26b. Interramal pouches absent	genus <i>Microspio</i> - 29
27a. (26a) Interramal pouches present anterior to chaetiger 10	----- 28
27b. Interramal pouches present from chaetigers 18 - 26; notochaetae sparse, pale yellow	<i>Laonice cirrata</i> (M. Sars, 1851)
28a. (7ab) Interramal pouches present from chaetigers 7 - 8; notochaetae dense, brassy colored	<i>Laonice nuchala</i> Blake, 1996
28b. Interramal pouches present from chaetiger 3; notochaetae dense, pale yellow	<i>Laonice</i> sp A Harris, 2005
29a. (26b) Prostomium rounded; notochaetae present on chaetiger 1	----- 30
29b. Prostomium bilobed; notochaetae absent on chaetiger 1; prostomium without pigment spot	<i>Microspio microcera</i> (Dorsey, 1977)
30a. (29a) Neuropodial hooded hooks bidentate; prostomium with pigment patch	<i>Microspio</i> sp DC1 Phillips, 2017 §
30b. Neuropodial hooded hooks multidentate; prostomium with prominent pigment patch	<i>Microspio pigmentata</i> (Reish, 1959)
31a. (20b) Branchiae from chaetiger 1	----- 32
31b. Branchiae from chaetiger 2	genus <i>Prionospio</i> - 33
32a. (31a) One pair of apinnate branchiae, with dorsal ridge on chaetiger 2	<i>Streblospio benedicti</i> Webster, 1879
32b. Three pairs of pinnate branchiae, with dorsal ridge on chaetiger 1	<i>Paraprionospio alata</i> (Moore, 1923)
33a. (31b) Branchiae all cirriform, 6 or more pairs	----- 34
33b. Branchiae a combination of pinnate and cirriform, 4 or 5 pairs	----- 35
34a. (33a) Prostomium rounded with 5 marginal peaks and 2 pairs of small eyes, 6 - 12 pairs of branchiae	<i>Prionospio lighti</i> Maciolek, 1985
34b. Prostomium rounded without peaks and 2 pairs of large eyes, 6 - 8 pairs of branchiae	<i>Prionospio multibranchiata</i> E. Berkeley, 1927
35a. (33b) First pair of branchiae pinnate, pinnules digitiform	----- 36
35b. First pair of branchiae cirriform, fourth pair pinnate with flat, plate-like pinnules	<i>Prionospio pygmaeus</i> (Hartman, 1961)
36a. (35a) Branchial pairs 2 and 3 cirriform; interramal pouches absent	----- 37
36b. Branchial pairs 2, 3 and 4 cirriform, interramal pouches present from chaetigers 2 - 4	<i>Prionospio ehlersi</i> Fauvel, 1928

37a. (36a) Four pairs of branchiae, pairs 1 and 4 pinnate	-----	38
37b. Five pairs of branchiae, pairs 1, 4 and 5 pinnate		
		<i>Prionospio heterobranchia</i>
		Moore, 1907
38a. (37a) Branchial pairs 1 and 4 pinnate, subequal, or with the fourth pair longer than the first	-----	39
38b. Branchial pairs 1 and 4 pinnate, first pair 2 - 3 times longer than the fourth pair		<i>Prionospio dubia</i>
		Day, 1961
39a. (38a) Branchial pairs 1 and 4 subequal, or fourth pair longer; dorsal crest from chaetiger 9		<i>Prionospio</i> sp J
		Harris 2014 §
39b. Branchial pairs 1 and 4 subequal, or fourth branchial pair 2 - 3 times longer than the first; dorsal crest from chaetiger 6		<i>Prionospio jubata</i>
		Blake, 1996
40a. (7b) Branchiae present from chaetiger 2	-----	41
40b. Branchiae first present after chaetiger 5	-----	45
41a. (40a) Modified spines of chaetiger 5 of 2 types: one w/ expanded end bearing cusps or bristles, second simple, falcate		genus <i>Boccardia</i> - 42
41b. Modified spines of chaetiger 5 of 1 type: simple, falcate, with bilimbate companion chaetae; prostomium deeply incised; anterior branchiae present on chaetigers 2, 3, 6 & 7		<i>Boccardiella hamata</i>
		(Webster, 1879)
42a. (41a) Prostomium rounded on anterior margin	-----	43
42b. Prostomium incised on anterior margin	-----	44
43a. (42a) Neuropodial hooded hooks present from chaetiger 7		<i>Boccardia proboscidea</i>
		Hartman, 1940
43b. Neuropodial hooded hooks present from chaetiger 8		<i>Boccardia columbiana</i>
		Berkeley, 1927
44a. (42b) Branchiae short, not reaching dorsal midline, fused basally to notopodial lamellae, present to mid-body; caruncle extends to end of chaetiger 3; pygidium a semicircular disk with a pair of terminal papillae		<i>Boccardia basilaria</i>
		Hartman, 1961
44b. Branchiae long, reaching dorsal midline, not fused basally to notopodial lamellae, present until posterior of body; caruncle extends to end of chaetiger 2; pygidium as 4 rounded, glandular lobes		<i>Boccardia pugettensis</i>
		Blake, 1979
45a. (40b) chaetiger 5 slightly to moderately modified, usually w/ well developed parapodia; major spines of 2 types: first simple, acicular or falcate, second pennoned with both types usually arranged in a "U" or "J" shaped double row; neuropodial hooded hooks with secondary tooth closely applied to main fang		genus <i>Pseudopolydora</i> - 46
45b. chaetiger 5 greatly modified; major spines of 1 or 2 types in a curved row, not "U" or "J" shaped; neuropodial hooded hooks with prominent angle between teeth	-----	47

46a. (45a) Prostomium bilobed		<i>Pseudopolydora kemp</i> (Southern, 1921)
46b. Prostomium rounded; occipital antennae present on caruncle as a nuchal cirrus		<i>Pseudopolydora paucibranchiata</i> (Okuda, 1937)
47a. (45b) Modified spines of chaetiger 5 of 1 type, variously shaped □	-----	48
47b. Modified spines of chaetiger 5 of 2 types: first with expanded ends, second type falcate, one or both types usually covered with bristles. □		<i>Carazziella</i> sp A SCAMIT 1995 §
48a. (47a) Notochaetae absent on chaetiger 1; neuropodial hooded hooks w/ constriction and manubrium on shaft, main fang at more or less right angle to shaft and wide angle w/ apical tooth; anterior part of digestive tract never interrupted by gizzard-like structure □		genus <i>Polydora</i> - 49
48b. Notochaetae present on chaetiger 1; neuropodial hooded hooks with smooth, curved shafts, main fang directed more apically, forming wide angle with shaft and a reduced angle with apical tooth; anterior part of digestive tract sometimes interrupted by gizzard-like structure □		genus <i>Dipolydora</i> - 59
49a. (48a) Hooded hooks from chaetiger 9 or more posteriorly	-----	50
49b. Hooded hooks from chaetiger 7	-----	51
50a. (49a) Prostomium deeply notched along anterior margin, with 1 or 2 occipital antennae; major spines of chaetiger 5 falcate, with 3 accessory structures: prominent tooth, small lateral accessory tooth, and thin, curved flange extending between both teeth and connecting curved falcate tip with shaft		<i>Polydora bioccipitalis</i> Blake & Woodwick, 1972
50b. Prostomium entire along anterior margin, occipital antennae absent; major spines of chaetiger 5 of 2 or 3 types: one very large, simple falcate spine with longitudinal groove, another narrow distally pointed with subterminal swelling, and 2 - 3 large, falcate spines, each with large accessory tooth		<i>Polydora heterochaeta</i> Rioja, 1939
51a. (49b) Major spines of chaetiger 5 with transverse subterminal collar or shelf on concave side, sometimes surrounding distinct concavity, lateral teeth sometimes present	-----	52
51b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 either simple, without accessory structures, or with subterminal tooth or thin flange sometimes oriented obliquely between curved tip of spine and main shaft	-----	53

52a. (51a) Prostomium weakly incised along anterior margin, sometimes turned ventrally, appearing entire from dorsum; narrow caruncle extending to end of chaetiger 2; major spines with large, prominent subterminal collar, appearing as 2 large teeth in lateral view		<i>Polydora spongicola</i> Berkeley & Berkeley, 1950
52b. Prostomium blunt along anterior margin; large, swollen caruncle extending to chaetiger 4; major spines with subterminal shelf and distinct lateral tooth		<i>Polydora narica</i> Light, 1969
53a. (51b) Prostomium with occipital antennae	-----	54
53b. Prostomium without occipital antennae	-----	57
54a. (53a) Major spines of chaetiger 5 simple, without accessory teeth or lateral flange	-----	55
54b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 falcate, with accessory tooth or lateral flange present	-----	56
55a. (54a) Major spines of chaetiger 5 straight, not falcate; notopodial lobe on chaetiger 1 short, digitiform		<i>Polydora nuchalis</i> Woodwick, 1953
55b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 falcate, with weakly developed subterminal boss; notopodial lobe of chaetiger 1 as long as or longer than occipital antennae		<i>Polydora cirrosa</i> Rioja, 1943
56a. (54b) Major spine of chaetiger 5 falcate, with distinct subterminal tooth, sometimes with additional narrow keel between tooth and tip of spine		<i>Polydora cornuta</i> Bosc, 1802
56b. Major spine of chaetiger 5 heavy, falcate with lateral flange		<i>Polydora cf hoplura</i> Claparède, 1868
57a. (53b) Prostomium incised along anterior margin	-----	58
57b. Prostomium entire along anterior margin		<i>Polydora pygidialis</i> Blake & Woodwick, 1972
58a. (57a) Major spines of chaetiger 5 with obliquely curved flange extending between shaft and tip		<i>Polydora websteri</i> Hartman, 1943
58b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 with small, triangular accessory tooth		<i>Polydora limicola</i> Annenkova, 1934
59a. (48b) Hooded hooks from chaetiger 10 - 17	-----	60
59b. Hooded hooks from chaetiger 7	-----	61
60a. (59a) Prostomium recessed into chaetiger 1, rounded to weakly incised; caruncle absent; palps very short; major spines of chaetiger 5 with long, lateral sheath; pygidium with 4 - 14 small, narrow lobes		<i>Dipolydora commensalis</i> (Andrews, 1891)
60b. Prostomium bifurcate along anterior margin; caruncle extending well beyond chaetiger 5; palps very long; major spines of chaetiger 5 with long lateral sheath, pygidium with 4 nearly equal lobes		<i>Diploydora elegantissima</i> (Blake & Woodwick, 1972)

61a. (59b) Major spines of chaetiger 5 simple, falcate, with subterminal boss, accessory teeth absent, flanges or collars not covered with bristles	-----	62
61b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 with accessory teeth, flanges, collars, and/or apex densely covered with bristles	-----	63
62a. (61a) Notopodial postsetal lamellae of chaetiger 1 large, leaflike; posterior notopodia with few long capillaries and distinct bundle of 13 - 20 thin, needle-like capillaries; major spines of chaetiger 5 simple, falcate, with weakly developed subterminal boss, sometimes with subterminal etches or scratches		<i>Dipolydora cardalia</i> (Berkeley, 1927)
62b. Notopodial postsetal lamellae of chaetiger 1 short, conical to triangular; posterior notopodia with few short and long capillaries, needle-like capillaries absent; major spines of chaetiger 5 simple, weakly falcate, with prominent subterminal boss, etchings or scratches not present		<i>Dipolydora socialis</i> (Schmarda, 1861)
63a. (61b) Major spines of chaetiger 5 with collar on convex side of falcate tip	-----	64
63b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 with various accessory teeth, flanges, or collars, not restricted to convex side of the spine	-----	65
64a. (63a) Posterior notopodia with packets of small glistening needles; hooded hooks bidentate in anterior and middle chaetigers, unidentate in posterior chaetigers; branchiae from chaetiger 8		<i>Dipolydora bidentata</i> (Zachs, 1933)
64b. Posterior notopodia with large spines bearing posteriorly directed barbs; hooded hooks bidentate throughout; branchiae from chaetiger 9 - 10		<i>Dipolydora barbilla</i> (Blake, 1980)
65a. (63b) Modified spines of chaetiger 5 with large accessory tooth on concave side and small spur on convex side, tip not covered with bristles; posterior notopodial spines present or absent, if present, not arranged in a rosette	-----	66
65b. Modified spines of chaetiger 5 always covered with fine bristles, with or without accessory teeth, teeth if present, sometimes joined by collar or cowl; posterior notopodial spines present, forming projecting rosette	-----	67
66a. (65a) Posterior notopodia with 3 - 4 recurved spines; pygidium with 4 nearly equal lobes; branchiae from chaetiger 8		<i>Dipolydora bifurcata</i> (Blake, 1981)
66b. Posterior notopodia with long capillaries, spines absent; pygidium cufflike, with dorsal gap; branchiae from chaetiger 9		<i>Dipolydora giardi</i> (Mesnil, 1893)
67a. (65b) Major spines of chaetiger 5 without accessory structures, but apex of spines partially or completely covered by fine bristles	-----	68
67b. Major spines of chaetiger 5 with 2 teeth, some bristles between teeth or partially covering spine		<i>Dipolydora cf armata</i> SCAMIT, 1983 §

- 68a. (67a) Major spines of chaetiger 5 with large, flattened beaklike curved end bearing large and distinctive crest of bristles; companion chaetae reduced to thin, simple capillaries; prostomium distinctly notched along anterior margin
- 68b. Major spines weakly curved apically, with flattened convex side and vague notch, tips covered with fine bristles; companion chaetae absent; prostomium narrow, with shallow notch along anterior margin

Dipolydora caulleryi
(Mesnil, 1897)

Dipolydora akaina
Blake, 1996

Other Spionidae reported from the region but not by SCAMIT

- Aonides glandulosa* Blake, 1996
Dispia anauncinata Delgado-Blas & Díaz-Díaz, 2016
Dispia lenislamellata Delgado-Blas & Díaz-Díaz, 2016
Dispia longibranchiata Delgado-Blas & Díaz-Díaz, 2016
Microspio spinosa Blake, 1996
Prionospio marsupialia Blake, 1996
Prionospio steenstupi Malmgren, 1867
Prionospio newportensis Reish, 1959
Pygospioopsis occipitalis Blake, 1996
Scolelepis (Scolelepis) acuta (Treadwell, 1914)
Scolelepis (Scolelepis) sp SF2 Norris, 2011 §

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Version History

1.0	Key Created	November, 2021 - BMH
1.1	Key updated to include <i>Dispio</i> sp SD1. Updated references. Added Spionidae reported from region but not by SCAMIT.	November, 2021 - BMH

1.2	Updated authorship of <i>Laonice</i> sp A to Harris, 2005. Updated couplet for <i>Prionospio</i> sp J & <i>Prionospio jubata</i> .	December, 2021 - BMH
2.0	Updated couplet for <i>Prionospio</i> sp J & <i>Prionospio jubata</i> . Removed DRAFT designation.	April, 2023 - BMH