



Taxonomic catalogue of the Spionidae (Annelida: Polychaeta) of the Grand Caribbean

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to provide a revised taxonomic catalogue of Spionidae species recorded from the Grand Caribbean. The names included were compiled from the checklists of Salazar-Vallejo (1996) and Perkins and Savage (1975). Names were revised and updated based on recent revisions. For each species, the original name is included together with current and previous names under which it has been recorded; all with associated citations. The type locality of each species, museum or institution where the type materials are deposited, and comments on systematics and geographic distributions are also included. The catalogue lists 66 species in 24 genera and at the end a list of species with questionable distribution in the Grand Caribbean is included.

Key words: Spionids, taxonomy, nomenclature, Mexico, Caribbean Sea

Introduction

The Spionidae Grube, 1850, is one of the major polychaete families, with well over 1000 nominal species (Sigvaldadóttir *et al.* 1997). They are found from the intertidal to the deep sea and can be a dominant component of shallow water sandy sediments. They have been found in the vicinity of hydrothermal vents (Maciolek 1981, Blake & Maciolek 1992, and Desbruyères & Segonzac 1997), and there are several species recorded in freshwater (Blake 1996). Most species live in soft mud, sandy and mixed sediments that include shells and gravel; some build permanent tubes in soft substrata (e.g. *Paraprionospio* Caullery, 1914), many species of the *Polydora* complex build tubes and establish dense populations in clastic sediments. However, others are able to bore into calcareous substrates like mollusc shells, living corals, coral rubble and coralline algae; also some species of polydorids have been found in silty clay. Numerous species are free-living, burrowing in mud and sand; such as those belonging to *Aonides* Claparède, 1864 and *Scolelepis* De Blainville, 1828. Spionids have been considered selective feeders of surface deposit, suspension feeders, or as both deposit and suspension feeders at the sediment–water interface (Dauer *et al.* 1981).

The family is one of the more species-rich and abundant polychaete families from the Grand Caribbean Region (Delgado-Blas 2001). In this region, a number of important studies on the Spionidae have been carried out. These works are summarized in Foster (1971a), Perkins and Savage (1975), Johnson (1984), Salazar-Vallejo (1996), and Delgado-Blas (2009). The last contribution lists 59 spionid species, belonging to 25 genera.

One of the problems in the taxonomy of the family is that many species are still considered to be cosmopolitan. In spite of this, some questionable records have already been clarified in previous studies (Delgado-Blas 2004, 2006, 2008). We hope that this catalogue provides taxonomists, ecologists and students with updated and revised information about this group, within the region.