

**A Key to British Capitellidae**  
 Unicmarine, 2000  
 Adapted from ECSA workshop key

Capitellidae can generally be keyed out by the number of thoracic segments. The presence or absence of an achaetous first segment and their chaetal formula (the number of thoracic chaetigers bearing capillaries or hooded hooks).

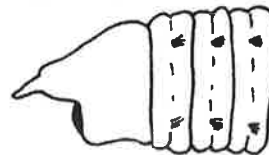
The junction between the thorax and abdomen can be spotted by the transition to different shaped segments bearing chaetae in a different position.

A. Capitellids without an achaetous first segment. (Prostomium blunt):



1. Bearing no capillary chaetae at all ..... *Baldia johnstoni*  
 Bearing capillary chaetae in the first 3 to 7 chaetigers ..... *Capitella* sp.  
 Includes: *C. capitata*, *C. hermaphrodita*, *Capitellides giardi*, *Capitomastus minimus*  
 (Since the chaetal formulae of *Capitella* spp. vary as they develop they cannot be reliably separated on this basis).

B. Capitellids with an achaetous first segment. (Prostomium pointed):



1. 13 thoracic chaetigers. (All of which bear capillary chaetae). *Dasybranchus* sp.  
 Includes: *D. caducus*, *D. gajolae*  
 Less than 13 thoracic chaetigers ..... 2
2. 11 thoracic chaetigers ..... 3  
 10 thoracic chaetigers; only 4 bearing capillaries ..... *Mediomastus fragilis*
3. All 11 chaetigers bearing capillaries ..... *Notomastus* sp.  
 Includes: *N. latericeus*, *N. profundus* and others (See Fauvel; Mackie & Garwood, 1995)  
 See also: *Pseudonotomastus southerni*
- First 5 chaetigers bearing capillaries ..... *Heteromastus filiformis*  
 First 3 chaetigers bearing capillaries ..... *Peresiella clymenoides*