

Comments on revision of **“Evaluating the phylogenetic position of the enigmatic genus *Atherospio* (Annelida: Spionidae) and description of *Atherospio aestuarii* sp. nov. from Japan”** by Hirokazu Abe & Kotaro Kan

The revised MS has improved the paper. There are only several points that arise.

Lines	Change/Comment etc
62	“not high of significance” to “not highly significant.”
80	NEW CHANGE COMMENT: The addition of “branchiae from setiger 2 and” invalidates the sentence since <i>Pygospioopsis dubia</i> has branchiae on chaetiger 2-3, <i>P. antarctica</i> has branchiae on chaetiger 2 to chaetiger 14 (maximum), and <i>P. occipitalis</i> has branchiae from chaetiger 2 to near the posterior end. Note also that “setiger” is used, whereas “chaetiger” is used elsewhere in the MS
136-143	COMMENT: The additional new text is not particularly useful unless mention is made of the placement of the enlarged ‘ <i>Pygospioopsis-Atherospio</i> ’ group
258	“digitate” to “digitiform”
262	NEW “modified chaetae in a irregular short row” is incorrect. In <i>Atherospio disticha</i> and <i>Atherospio aestuarii</i> sp.nov. the modified spines are in <u>very regular</u> vertical rows. In <i>Atherospio guillei</i> there are 2 forms of spines and these are said by Meißner & Bick (2005: 117) to be in “gathered in irregular, short rows”. The emended generic diagnosis of Meißner & Bick is therefore in error.
318	Delete “from” in “arising from lateral”
331	NEW CHANGE COMMENT: I think the original text was good. As far as I am aware “nototroch” is used for larval ciliated bands e.g., see http://www.annelida.net/nz/Polychaeta/References/NZPolyGlossaryV1.htm#N
337	“Neurochaetae” to “Neurochaetal”
363	NEW “S-curve on the shaft” to “shafts S-shaped”
382	NEW CHANGE CHANGE: “peristomial papillae” to “peristomial papillae (see Meißner & Bick 2005: fig. 2C), ”

798-799: table 2 legend	COMMENT: The title includes “based on Meißner & Bick 2005, Blake & Maciolek 2018), but it is not clear to what this refers. At the end of each table column are the references from which the table data are derived.
Table 2, Peristomial papillae	For <i>A. disticha</i> , CHANGE “Absent” to ‘Not reported”