

First record of *Spiogalea* Aguirrezabalaga & Ceberio 2005 (Polychaeta: Spionidae) for the Western Atlantic

Antônio J.M. Peixoto¹ & Paulo C. Paiva¹

¹ – Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Institute of Biology, Department of Zoology, Polychaete Laboratory
Contact: antjmp@ufrj.br

Polychaetes belonging to the Family Spionidae Grube, 1850 are very common and abundant in several marine ecosystems, being one of the most specious and ecologically important families.

The genus *Spiogalea* Aguirrezabalaga & Ceberio, 2005 is known only by the type species, *S. vieitezi* Aguirrezabalaga & Ceberio, 2005, based on material collected on Bay of Biscay, at 1,000 m depth. It is characterized by two chevron-shaped chitinous plates surrounding anterior part of prostomium, absence of branchiae, notopodial chaetae all capillary and parapodia of first chaetiger reduced, lacking notopodial postchaetal lobe and with small neuropodial postchaetal lobe.

Three specimens belonging to an undescribed species of the genus were found during AMBES Project (PETROBRAS) on the continental slope of southern Brazil, at 890m depth (Figure 1A).

These analyzed specimens fit reasonably well to the diagnosis of the genus, but noteworthy differences were observed, such as a large single chitinous plate covering dorsal and ventral sides of the prostomium (Figure 1B) and the presence of notopodial hooks on posterior-most chaetigers (Figure 1C). A comparison table between *S. vieitezi* and present specimens is provided (Table 1).

The present record expands both the geographical range of the genus to the Western Atlantic, and its bathymetry, since this is the shallowest record for the genus.

Table 1 – Comparison of *Spiogalea* species

Character / Species	<i>Spiogalea vieitezi</i>	<i>Spiogalea</i> sp.
Chitinous plate	Two Chevron-shaped plates	Single plate
Sabre chaeta	From chaetiger 10	From chaetigers 8-9
Neuropodial hooks	From chaetigers 16-17	From chaetigers 12-16
Notopodial hooks	Absent	From chaetiger 25

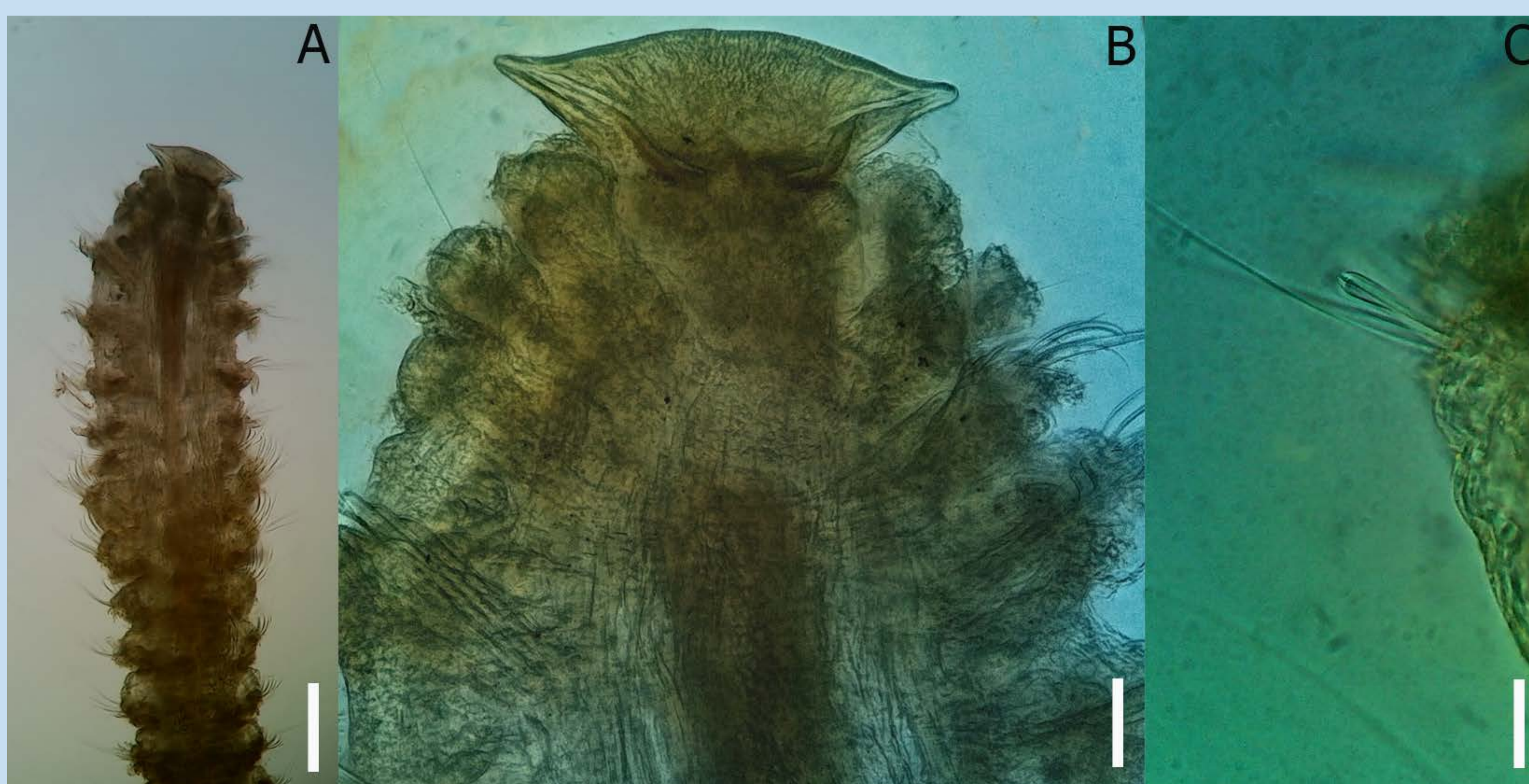


Figure 1. *Spiogalea* sp. : anterior region (A), prostomium (B) and notopodial hook (C). Scale bars: A = 500 μm, B = 80 μm, C = 30 μm.