

**The milliped family Anthroleucosomatidae new to North America:
Leschius mcallisteri, n. gen., n. sp. (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida:
Anthroleucosomatoidea)**

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Abstract

Leschius mcallisteri, n. gen., n. sp., is described from near Olympia, Washington, USA, as the first North American representative of the milliped family Anthroleucosomatidae, differing from all other species of the family in its small size, low segment number, and distinctive male ninth legs (posterior gonopods) lacking any trace of a telopodite. The new species is highly disjunct; the core distribution of the anthroleucosomatids is in the Balkans, ranging east to the Caucasus, Iran, and central Siberia.

Key words: Diplopoda, Anthroleucosomatidae, new genus, new species

Introduction

One of the least understood assemblages of chordeumatidan millipeds is the family Anthroleucosomatidae. Recent classifications (Hoffman 1980; Shear 2000) differ significantly on the full composition of the family, but agree on the inclusion of a core group of genera whose distribution centers in Italy and the Balkan Peninsula, and extends southeast to Iran, the Caucasus Mountains of Russia and Georgia, and to the Altai Mountains in central Siberia. These genera, many of which include troglobitic species, are characterized by a suite of apomorphies in the gonopods and ninth legs of males: 1) gonopod sternum with a large, posterior, median shield-like structure that may be very complex, 2) presence of putative cheirites in the gonopods, 3) strongly reduced ninth legs in which the telopodites may be entirely absent, but which carry complex coxal elements.

Leschius mcallisteri, n. gen., n. sp., was collected by WPL at McAllister Springs, near Olympia, Thurston County, Washington. The new species appears to be more closely