

A chronological catalog of the New World species of *Scolopendra* L., 1758 (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae)

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Abstract

Since 1758, 140 names have been erected for, transferred into, or assigned to species of *Scolopendra* occurring in the New World. One hundred sixteen are from definite, though sometimes vague, type localities; 18 are for nominal species without type localities; three lack standing in nomenclature and are invalid; and three are *nomina nuda*. To facilitate future studies and determining synonymies, these names are cataloged in chronological order in four listings plus a summary roster of senior names and junior subjective synonyms. Additional rosters cite primary homonyms needing rectification and species needing neotypes — ones with revisitable type localities, ones with unknown or overly generalized type localities that cannot be rechecked, and ones whose type specimens may still exist. The Mexican species, *S. robusta* Kraepelin, 1903,

inadvertently reduced to subspecific status under *S. gigantea* L., 1758, in a popularized booklet, is returned to full specific status and deleted from Colombia, and *S. punctiscuta* Wood, 1861, is placed in synonymy under *S. heros* Girard, 1853, which is deleted from India. *Scolopendra sumichrasti* Saussure, 1860, & *S. olmeca* Humbert & Saussure, 1969, are possible synonyms of *S. pomacea* C. L. Koch, 1847. The synonymy of *S. viridilimbata* Daday, 1891, under *S. polymorpha* Wood, 1861, is accepted, and the following established synonymies are confirmed: under *S. alternans* Leach, 1815 — *S. sagraea* Gervais, 1837, *S. cubensis* Saussure, 1860, *S. complanata*, *S. multispinata*, & *S. grayi*, all by Newport, 1844, and *S. torquata* & *S. testacea*, both by Wood, 1861; under *S. subspinipes* Leach, 1815 — *S. sexspinosa* Newport, 1844, and *S. placea* & *S. lutea*, both by Newport, 1845; under *S. morsitans* L., 1758, *S. brandtiana* Gervais, 1837, and *S. pella* Wood, 1861; and under *S. viridicornis* Newport, 1844, *S. punctidens* Newport, 1844. The following generic assignments are confirmed: *S. lobidens* Newport, 1844, in *Cormocephalus* Newport, 1845; and *S. cormocephalina* Kohlrausch, 1878, *S. longipleura* Silvestri, 1895, and *S. chilensis* & *S. pallida*, both by Gervais, 1847, in *Hemiscolopendra* Kraepelin, 1903. *Scolopendra viridicornis* Newport, 1844, a plausible inhabitant of Guyana, is deleted from Cuba and the Lesser Antilles. The publication date of *S. alternans* Leach, previously thought to be 1813, is corrected to 1815, and that of *S. arthrorhabdoides* Ribaut, previously cited as both 1912 and 1914, is established as 1913.

Key words: *Scolopendra*, Neotropical, North America, South America, Central America, West Indies/Antilles.

Introduction

In my monograph on the Scolopendromorpha of North America, defined as just the United States (US) and Canada, I (Shelley 2002) provided accounts of the four native and two exogenous species of *Scolopendra* L., 1758, including diagnoses, established and new synonymies, ecological preferences, and occurrences. The indigenous species — *S. alternans* Leach, 1815; *S. viridis* Say, 1821; *S. heros* Girard, 1853; & *S. polymorpha* Wood, 1861 — extend southward for varying distances into Mexico, Central America, & the West Indies, and the allochthonous ones — *S. morsitans* L., 1758, & *S. subspinipes* Leach, 1815 — are occasionally encountered at ports in the US or are intercepted in quarantines. Both latter species appear to be established on certain Caribbean Islands, and the former has recently been introduced to northeastern Florida, USA (Shelley *et al.* 2005). None of the native species range northward into Canada, nor have any been encountered there as quarantine interceptions or as transient human importations. Consequently, the diversity of *Scolopendra* in North America is limited, as is that from Tobago northward in the West Indies, where there are only five species, three indigenous (*S. alternans*, *S. angulata* Newport, 1844, & *S. crudelis* C. L. Koch, 1847) and two introduced (*S. morsitans* & *S. subspinipes*).

Scolopendra is more diverse to the south of the US/North America and the West Indies, and some 70 names have been proposed for continental forms. Even though many are known or expected to be synonymous, some even with *S. morsitans* & *S. subspinipes*,