



## ***Ommatoiulus malleatus* n. sp., a new Tunisian millipede, with notes on the *punicus* species group of *Ommatoiulus* (Diplopoda, Julidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new millipede species, *Ommatoiulus malleatus* n. sp. (Diplopoda, Julidae), is described from the Ichkeul National Park, Tunisia. The gonopod structure of the species indicates the *punicus*-group which includes *Ommatoiulus punicus* (Brölemann, 1894), *Ommatoiulus seurati* (Brolemann, 1925), *Ommatoiulus aumalensis* (Brolemann, 1925), *Ommatoiulus atlanteus* Schubart, 1960, *Ommatoiulus quadridentatus* Schubart, 1960 recorded from North Africa and *Ommatoiulus brandti* (Berlese, 1885) from Sicily. The new species is, however, well differentiated by a particular “hammer-like structure” on the mesomerite process of the posterior gonopod.

**Key words:** Myriapoda, Diplopoda, *Ommatoiulus*, *punicus* species group, taxonomy, Tunisia

### **Résumé**

Un nouveau diplopode *Ommatoiulus malleatus* (Diplopoda, Julidae) en provenance du Parc National de l'Ichkeul, Tunisie est ici décrit. Ce diplopode appartient au groupe d'espèces *punicus* qui regroupe *Ommatoiulus punicus* (Brölemann, 1894), *Ommatoiulus seurati* (Brolemann, 1925), *Ommatoiulus aumalensis* (Brolemann, 1925), *Ommatoiulus atlanteus* Schubart, 1960, *Ommatoiulus quadridentatum* Schubart, 1960 recensées en Afrique du Nord et *Ommatoiulus brandti* (Berlese, 1885) en Sicile. *Ommatoiulus malleatus* se distingue par une structure particulière «en marteau» au niveau du mésomérite du gonopode postérieur.

### **Introduction**

Studies devoted to North African diplopods and particularly to the Tunisian fauna are quite scattered and rare. In fact, only a few authors have dealt with this region (Attems 1900, 1908; Brölemann 1894, 1913, 1915, 1921, 1924, 1925a, 1925b, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1932; Gadeau de Kerville 1886, 1906; Pocock 1892; Schubart 1960, 1963; Silvestri 1896 and Verhoeff 1936, 1938). Brolemann recorded about 53 diplopods for the northern Africa region (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco). Recently, Abrous-Kherbouche & Mauriès (1996) listed 51 diplopod species from Algeria and described three new ones.

In Tunisia, 24 species were recorded by Brolemann (1921). This number has risen to 26 species with the works of Ceuca (1967, 1988) and Marquet & Condé (1950).

The genus *Ommatoiulus* Latzel, 1884 [*Archiulus* Berlese, 1886; *Schizophyllum* Verhoeff, 1895] is widely distributed in the western Mediterranean region, especially in the Iberian Peninsula. Only a few species occur in Italy [e. g. *O. buchneri* (Verhoeff, 1940)] or spread up to Central Europe, reaching Russia [e. g. *O. rutilans* (C.L. Koch, 1847) and *O. sabulosus* (Linné, 1758)]. *Ommatoiulus* species have rarely been recorded from the