



## Revalidation of the subgenus *Dactylotergitius* Verhoeff, and redescription of *Otostigmus* (*D.*) *caudatus* Brölemann and *Otostigmus* (*D.*) *cavalcantii* Bücherl (Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae: Otostigminae)

AMAZONAS CHAGAS-JÚNIOR<sup>1</sup>, IRENE KNYSAK<sup>2,3</sup> & SAMUEL P. G. GUIZZE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Museu Nacional, UFRJ. Departamento de Invertebrados, Laboratório de Aracnologia. Quinta da Boa Vista, s/nº, São Cristóvão. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil. CEP-20940-040. E-mail: rhoda@terra.com.br

<sup>2</sup>Instituto Butantan, Laboratório de Artrópodes. Av. Vital Brazil, 1500. São Paulo, SP, Brasil. CEP-05503-9000. E-mail: <sup>3</sup>irenisak@butantan.gov.br

### Abstract

The subgenus *Dactylotergitius* Verhoeff, 1937 of *Otostigmus* Porat, 1876 is **revalidated**, with *Coxopleurotostigmus* Bücherl, 1939 as its **junior subjective synonym**. Two species are recognized in *Otostigmus* (*Dactylotergitius*): *Otostigmus* (*D.*) *caudatus* Brölemann, 1902 and *O.* (*D.*) *cavalcantii* Bücherl, 1939, the latter with the following **new synonyms**: *O. kretzii* Bücherl, 1939, *O. cavalcantii perdicensis* Bücherl, 1943, *O. sternosulcatus* Bücherl, 1946, *O. cavalcantii iberaensis* Coscarón, 1955 and *O. caudatus hoguei* Bücherl, 1974.

**Key words:** Chilopoda, centipede, *Otostigmus*, *Parotostigmus*, Neotropical, Brazil

### Introduction

In taxonomic studies of Scolopendridae, the genus *Otostigmus* Porat, 1876 has been recognized, for more than a century as the most difficult to elucidate (Pocock, 1892, Attems, 1934, Lewis, 2002). One hundred and ten species are grouped in two subgenera: *Otostigmus*, and *Parotostigmus* Pocock, 1896. The first includes species from African and Indo-Australian regions while the latter includes mainly Neotropical species with only five species and four subspecies from West and Central Africa (Attems, 1930; Minelli, 2006). The main difference between the subgenera is the presence or absence of spines on the prefemur of the ultimate legs (Pocock, 1896, Attems, 1928, Bücherl, 1939a, 1943b, 1974). Attems (1930) also considered the presence of a spine on the second telomere and the accessory claw of the distal telomere of the second maxilla as a characteristic of *Otostigmus*, however this character has not been investigated in all species (Lewis, 2001).

Several species of the subgenus *Otostigmus* have been recently revised by Lewis (1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004), but the Neotropical species of *Parotostigmus* still need study. *Parotostigmus* constitutes one of the most diverse groups of Neotropical scolopendromorphs, with 56 species and 14 subspecies. The subgenus was proposed by Pocock (1896) to include the type species *P. denticulatus* Pocock, 1896 from Mexico and eight more species from South America and the Antilles. All the species he included in the new subgenus had the posterior border of the coxopleuron truncate and the prefemur of the ultimate legs unarmed, moreover, the males of most species presented characteristic sexual modifications.

In his monograph of scolopendromorphs, Kraepelin (1903) listed 50 species of *Otostigmus*, 19 of them from the Neotropics. He disagreed with the classification into two subgenera proposed by Pocock (1896) because there were species without spines on the prefemur of the ultimate legs, but with a spiny apophysis on