



Notes on the genus *Afropachyiulus* Schubart, 1960 (Diplopoda: Julida: Julidae) with a description of a new species from Algeria and a redescription of *A. comatus* (Attems, 1899)

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Abstract

The North African genus *Afropachyiulus* Schubart, 1960 is a poorly defined genus of the tribe Pachyiulini, the taxonomy of which is still obscure. In this paper we retrace the history of the genus *Afropachyiulus*, we describe *A. mauriesi* n. sp., from Algeria, and we redescribe the very similar *A. comatus* (Attems, 1899) from Tunisia based on type and new material.

Key words: Tribe Pachyiulini, taxonomy, new species, North Africa

Résumé

Le genre Nord Africain *Afropachyiulus* Schbart, 1960 est encore peu connu et sujet à controverses comme l'est d'ailleurs la taxonomie de toute la tribue des Pachyiulini. Dans le présent travail, on retrace l'histoire du genre *Afropachyiulus* pour lequel, nous décrivons une espèce nouvelle : *A. mauriesi* n. sp d'Algérie et nous redécrivons l'espèce la plus proche *A. comatus* (Attems, 1899) connue de Tunisie en se basant sur un matériel type ainsi que nouvellement récolté.

Introduction and historical account

Delimitation of genera within the tribe Pachyiulini has been, and remains, an extremely difficult task. The most recent comprehensive attempts, those of Tabacaru (1978) and Mauriès (1982), led to quite different classifications, neither of which is entirely satisfactory.

Even by the standards of the tribe, the genus *Afropachyiulus* is particularly problematical. The history of the genus so far can be summarised as follows:

Schubart (1960) described *Afropachyiulus* as a new genus with *Pachyiulus* (*Geopachyiulus*) *oraniensis* Verhoeff, 1900 (Algeria), as type species. He further included *Geopachyiulus* (*Nesopachyiulus*) *lepineyi* Verhoeff, 1936 (Morocco), and, with doubt, *Pachyiulus* (*Typhlopachyiulus*) *comatus* Attems, 1899 (Tunisia), in *Afropachyiulus*. The diagnosis of *Afropachyiulus* given by Schubart (1960, pp. 191–192) was (translated from German): “Two setae laterally on the vertex. Male mandibles without protruding lobes. Ocelli missing. Longitudinally striated up to or even including the dorsum. Ozopores behind the suture. Body rings naked or with short setae. Telson rounded, with long pilosity. Male legs without ventral pads. Promerite more or less club-shaped, with a mesal ridge on posterior side, more or less club-shaped. With an apically tapering mesomerital process which remains shorter than the opisthomerite. The latter divided into two lobes or with a fringed