



The class Diplopoda in Mongolia, with description of a new species

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Abstract

The class Diplopoda appears to be represented in Mongolia by eight species from 4 genera, 2 families (Polyzoniidae and Diplomaragnidae) and 2 orders (Polyzoniida and Chordeumatida). One species is described here as new to science: *Shearia longa* sp. nov. Genus *Shearia* Mikhaljova, 2000 is new to the fauna of Mongolia. All currently known Diplopoda taxa from Mongolia are keyed, including the new species. The distributions of all Mongolian diplopod species are mapped.

Key words: Millipede, new species, description, taxonomy, key, distribution, Mongolia

Introduction

Knowledge of the millipede fauna of the Mongolia is still highly patchy and incomplete. The first data on diplopods of the country derive from the paper of Golovatch (1977) in which the new genus *Ancestreuma* Golovatch, 1977, of the order Chordeumatida, and two new species are described; the new genus was described in a new family Ancestreumatidae including Mongolian, Altai and Sayan species. After 13 years another four new chordeumatid species of *Diplomaragna* Attems, 1907 genus (family Diplomaragnidae, order Chordeumatida) from Mongolia were described (Shear 1990). In addition, in his publication of 1990 Shear treated Ancestreumatidae as a junior synonym of Diplomaragnidae and *Ancestreuma* as a junior synonym of *Diplomaragna*. Then *Ancestreuma* was revalidated, four Mongolian species were transferred to this genus while the remaining two Mongolian species were assigned to the new genus *Asiatyla* Mikhaljova, 2000 (Mikhaljova 2000). Later, *Angarozonium amurense* (Gerstfeldt, 1859) of the order Polyzoniida, family Polyzoniidae, was recorded from Mongolia (Mikhaljova & Marusik 2004). In addition, information on morphological variation in Mongolian-Siberian *Ancestreuma longibrachiatum* (Shear, 1990) was published (Mikhaljova 2002). Summarized data on the species distributed both in Mongolia and Siberia can be obtained from reviews of diplopods of the Asian part of Russia and Siberia proper (Mikhaljova 1993; 2004; Mikhaljova & Golovatch 2001).

The present paper provides a description of a new species as well as a review of, and key to, the Diplopoda taxa occurring in Mongolia. The distributions of all Mongolian diplopod species are mapped.

Material and methods

Material treated here has been collected and kindly entrusted for study by K. Ulykpan (Pavlodar State University, Pavlodar, Kazakhstan) and B. Bayartogtokh (National University of Mongolia, UlaanBaatar, Mongolia). This material has been deposited in the collections of the Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia (IBSS), Pavlodar State University, Pavlodar, Kazakhstan (PU), National University of Mongolia, UlaanBaatar, Mongolia (NUM) and Zoological Museum, State University of Moscow, Russia (ZMUM), as indicated in the text.

Specimens were kept in 70–75% ethanol. In the process of studying the material, the gonopods and some other parts were dissected from a limited number of males and mounted in glycerin as temporary micropreparations.