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The centipede fauna (Chilopoda) of the island of Cyprus, with one new lithobiomorph species

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Abstract

The centipede (Chilopoda) fauna of Cyprus, which was almost unknown, has been analysed by examining more than 1,800 specimens sampled from 185 sites, besides revising critically the few published data. A total of 26 species are listed and discussed (1 Scutigermorpha, 9 Lithobiomorpha, 3 Scolopendromorpha, 13 Geophilomorpha), 21 of which are new to the island, i.e. *Scutigera coleoptrata* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Lithobius (Ezembius) parvicornis* (Porat, 1893), *L. (E.) pamukkalensis* Matic, 1980, *L. (E.) zeylanus* (Chamberlin, 1952), *L. (Lithobius) carinatus* L. Koch, 1862, *L. (L.) erythrocephalus* C.L. Koch, 1847, *L. (Lithobius?) anderssoni* n. sp., *L. (Monotarsobius) ferganensis* Trotzina, 1880, *Cryptops (Cryptops) kosswigi* (Chamberlin, 1952), *C. (C.) cf. trisulcatus* Brölemann, 1902, *Dignathodon microcephalus* (Lucas, 1846), *Henia (Meinertia) bicarinata* (Meinert, 1870), *Geophilus cf. alpinus* Meinert, 1870, *G. cf. carpophagus* Leach, 1815, *Pachymerium ferrugineum* (C.L. Koch, 1835), *Schizotaenia* sp., *Stenotaenia naxia* (Verhoeff, 1901), *Thracophilus cilicius* Attems, 1947, *Nannophilus eximius* (Meinert, 1870) and *Schendyla cf. nemorensis* (C.L. Koch, 1837), and another unidentified species of Schendylidae. As far as known, *Lithobius anderssoni* n. sp. is endemic to the island. Geographic distribution in Cyprus and ecological notes are given for each species. Taxonomic remarks are given for some species.

Key words: Geophilomorpha, Lithobiomorpha, *Lithobius anderssoni*, Scolopendromorpha, Scutigermorpha, species catalogue, taxonomy, Troodos mountain, West Asia

Introduction

Only five species of centipedes are known to date from Cyprus (Minelli *et al.* 2006), the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, with an area of 9,250 km², 225 km long from E to W and up to 97 km from N to S, and with a maximum height of 1,952 m (Mt. Olympus). The only paper devoted to this fauna is Turk (1952), reporting on few myriapods collected mainly in 1950, by members of the Hebrew University of Israel. A small number of other data, partly collected in different occasions by the German naturalists Richard Hesse and Julius Vosseler at the end of the 19th century, were published by Verhoeff (1901) and Chalande & Ribaut (1909). Generic quotations of *Scolopendra* sp. and *Lithobius* sp. are also in Sinclair (1895).

Aim of this paper is to list and discuss previous and new records collected in recent zoological surveys carried out in the island. Twenty-six species are listed and discussed. One new species of *Lithobius* Leach, 1814 is described and twenty-one species are recorded for the first time from the area.