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The centipedes (Arthropoda, Myriapoda, Chilopoda) from Colombia: Part I. Scutigeromorpha and Scolopendromorpha

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Abstract

This study presents an updated list of centipedes of the orders Scutigeromorpha and Scolopendromorpha from Colombia based on data from the literature, the World Catalogue of Centipedes (CHILOBASE), and specimens examined in museum collections. Four families, nine genera, 37 species and four subspecies are listed. One species belongs to Scutigeromorpha, and 36 species and four subspecies to Scolopendromorpha. Eleven species and four subspecies of scolopendromorphs are recorded for the first time from Colombia. *Newportia* Gervais, 1847 is the most diverse genus with 12 species and three subspecies. Six species of Scolopendromorpha are endemic. Three species—*Otostigmus inermis* Porat, 1876, *O. scabricauda* (Humbert & Saussure, 1870) and *Cryptops iheringi* Brölemann, 1902—are deleted from the fauna of Colombia. The Andean Región in Colombia has the most records of Scutigeromorpha and Scolopendromorpha. Maps showing the geographical distribution are given for the orders, genera, and some species.

Key words: Neotropical Región, Western South America, taxomomy, species list

Introduction

Colombia is one of the most biodiverse regions in the word (Armenteras *et al*. 2003). However, the centipede fauna of Colombia is poorly known when compared to other groups of organisms, such as birds, insects and plants. Of the 3300 species of centipedes worldwide, only 36 are recorded from Colombia. It is only the sixth richest country in number of species of centipedes in South America.

Reports of centipedes from Colombia date back to the mid to late 19th century (Gervais 1844a, b, 1859; Humbert & Saussure 1870; Karsch 1884; Pocock 1896) and early 20th century (Kraepelin 1903). Scientific expedition reports mention different species of centipedes, and at least nine were recorded in Colombia: one scutigeropmorph, one geophilomorph and seven scolopendromorphs. Apart from the occasional early mentions of centipedes from Colombia, the first specific study of the Colombian centipede fauna was published more than a century ago and derives from a scientific expedition by O. Fuhrmann and Eugene Mayor to Colombia (Ribaut 1912). Seventeen species were recorded; three of them were new—*Scolopendra arthrorhabdoides* Ribaut, 1912, *Newportia fuhrmanni* Ribaut, 1912 and *Ribautia fuhrmanni* Ribaut, 1912. Three papers on the centipedes of Colombia were published by Chamberlin (1921, 1946, 1957). Chamberlin (1921) cited 11 species, seven scolopendromorphs, three geophilomorphs and one scutigeromorph. Two species were described as new: *Schendylurus colombianus* Chamberlin, 1921 and *Pselliodes colombiana* Chamberlin, 1921 (eventually a synonym of *Sphendononema guildingii* (Newport, 1845)). Chamberlin (1946) cited a scutigeromorph from Pearl Island and

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(9–3800 m). All species of *Scolopendra* were recorded between 7–140 m, except for *S. arthrorhabdoides* whose altitudinal range varies from 150 to 1550 m, and species of *Rhysida* that were found from 14 to 485 m. The latter two genera are typically found at low elevations. *Scolopocryptops miersii* is found only at low elevation (83 to 200 m); on the other hand, *N. albana* (2298 m), *N. longitarsis tropicalis* (2700–3200 m) and *N. phoreta* (3055–3250 m) are typically found at higher elevations.

Although we have nearly doubled the number of species that were listed for the country a century ago (including only species of Scutigeromorpha and Scolopendromorpha), the number of species of centipedes in Colombia is still underestimated and the Myriapodological collections are mostly very recent. New sampling in this poorly explored country is required to improve the collections and increase knowledge of this group of terrestrial arthropods in Colombia.

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