

***Branneria bonoculus*, n. sp., a second species in the North American milliped family Branneriidae (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida: Brannerioidea)**

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Abstract

Branneria bonoculus, n. sp., is described from southwestern Arkansas (USA) as the second species in its genus and family. Some misinterpretations of branneriid gonopods are corrected, and the composition of the superfamily Brannerioidea is briefly discussed. New figures of the gonopods of *Branneria carinata* (Bollman) are presented.

Key words: Milliped, Diplopoda, Chordeumatida, Branneriidae, *Branneria bonoculus*, *Branneria carinata*, taxonomy, United States, Arkansas

Introduction

The diplopod order Chordeumatida is replete with monotypic taxa, so it is a pleasure to add a species to a genus and family that since 1893 has included a solitary member. Recently, I also discovered a second species (Shear, in press) in the previously monotypic genus *Apterourus*, the only genus in the family Apterouridae (Loomis, 1966). The broader significance of both of these discoveries is that even casual collecting of the litter fauna in what might be thought of as well-collected regions can turn up new taxa of fundamental interest. For chordeumatidans, the importance of collecting at the right time of year is also becoming obvious. Many chordeumatidans are active only in the cooler, wetter winter months, when few collectors are abroad. The new *Apterourus* was taken in a pitfall trap left out from November to February in California, and the species described below was collected in Arkansas in February. More evidence for the desirability of winter collecting has come in the form of a virtual bonanza of new chordeumatidan taxa from the state of Washington, USA, which will be described in a forthcoming series of papers.