

Microlympiidae, a new milliped family from North America, and *Microlympia echina*, new genus and species (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida: Brannerioidea)

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Abstract

A new genus and species of milliped, *Microlympia echina*, is described from Jefferson County, Washington, USA. The new species cannot be placed in any existing milliped family, due to a unique combination of characters and at least two significant autapomorphies. The new Family Microlympiidae is therefore established, placed in the Superfamily Brannerioidea, and compared with the related families Tingupidae, Niponiosomatidae, and Branneriidae.

Key words: Diplopoda, milliped, Chordeumatida, Brannerioidea, Microlympiidae, *Microlympia echina*, taxonomy, Washington (state)

Introduction

At least at the family level, the milliped fauna of the United States was thought to be well-known. The last North American milliped families to be named were Tingupidae and Apterouridae, established by H. F. Loomis in 1966. The genus *Tingupa*, upon which Loomis based his new family, had been described by Chamberlin in 1910 as a “craspedosomatid,” a catch-all category for chordeumatid millipeds used at the beginning of the twentieth century, and Apterouridae was based on a new genus and species.

Work subsequent to 1966 has revealed many new North American milliped genera, and nearly all named genera have now been examined and placed in previously-known families. However, we are from time to time forcefully reminded that large parts of the North American continent remain *terra incognita* with respect to the soil and litter fauna. Even casual collecting in these regions, which must include nearly the entire Pacific coast from The Mexico/USA border north to Alaska, turns up many new species, frequent new genera, and now a new family.