

First record of *Dendrobaena pygmaea* (Oligochaeta: Lumbricidae) from Asia (Yokohama, Japan)

R.J. BLAKEMORE

COE Soil Ecology Group, Yokohama National University (YNU), Tokiwadai 79-7, Kanagawa-ken, Japan.
Email: robblakemore@bigpond.com

Abstract

The 'cosmopolitan' lumbricid earthworm *Dendrobaena pygmaea* (Savigny, 1826) is reported for the first time from Asia, from the campus of Yokohama National University, Japan. It is a small detritivorous 'litter species' or 'humus feeder' found to have a simple intestinal typhlosole. Here it is briefly re-described, and its taxonomy and previously known distribution (in Europe, North Africa, North and South America) are discussed. A figure is provided. As Yokohama port was opened for foreign trade shortly after Commodore Perry's visit in 1853, the incursion of this species is probably only within the last 150 years. It is not considered to pose any particular environmental risk.

Key words: Alien, invasive species, cosmopolitan, risk management, *Dendrobaena*

Introduction

Earthworm communities are composed of native and exotic components and distinguishing between these is crucial for understanding and managing regional biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. From a worldwide pool of about 6,000 described taxa, only 100 or so are commonly encountered outside of their endemic domains. These are the 'cosmopolitan' or peregrine species. The current paper reports a new record of a cosmopolitan from the Holarctic family Lumbricidae from Yokohama National University (YNU) campus. This account follows the conventions and methodology given in Blakemore (2000, 2002).

Taxonomy (synonyms)

Genus: *Dendrobaena* Eisen, 1874: 53 [syn. *Omodeoia* Kvavadze, 1993 with type-species *Dendrobaena byblica* (Rosa, 1893); syn. nov. in Csuzdi & Zicsi (2003: 107)].
Type species: *Dendrobaena boeckii* Eisen, 1874 (= *Enterion octaedrum* Savigny, 1826).