



## A second species in the millipede suborder Sinocallipodidea Shear, 2000 (Diplopoda: Callipodida)

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### Abstract

*Sinocallipus thai* sp.n, is described from Saraburi Province, Thailand. This is the second species in the suborder Sinocallipodidea Shear, 2000, hitherto known only from *S. simplipodicus*, discovered in a cave in Yunnan, southern China. Although there are just a few differences in the structure of the gonopods, the new species can be easily distinguished from its congener by the larger number of ocelli and pleurotergites, the relative length of antennae, shape of antennomere 7, body coloration, etc. There also seems to be a habitat differentiation, *S. simplipodicus* is known only from a cave, while the unique specimen of *Sinocallipus thai* was collected under a rock and accordingly does not show any particular troglomorphic traits. The putative record of *S. simplipodicus* from Laos (Shear et al., 2003, Zootaxa, 365, 1–20) is discussed in the light of the new finding.

**Key words:** taxonomy, *Sinocallipus thai* sp. n., *S. simplipodicus*, Saraburi Province, Thailand

### Introduction

The millipede order Callipodida Pocock, 1894, comprises three suborders – Schizopetalidea Hoffman, 1973, with approximately 130 valid species and subspecies distributed in the Northern Mediterranean realm, central and southeastern Asia and also North America; Callipodidea Pocock, 1894, with 5 species occurring in southern Europe, and the monobasic suborder Sinocallipodidea Shear, 2000, with a single species, *Sinocallipus simplipodicus* Zhang, 1993, described from the Xiao Cave in Hekou Yaozu Autonomous Region, Yunnan Province, China (cf. Zhang, 1993, Shelley, 2003, Shear et al. 2003). Originally described as a separate family (Zhang, 1993), it was subsequently given a rank of a suborder because of its very simple gonopods (Shear, 2000). Specimens collected from unspecified habitat in the city of Hanoi, Vietnam, were tentatively assigned to *S. simplipodicus* (Enghoff et al. 2004), as were others from an epigeal habitat in Bolavens Plateau, Champasak/ Attapu Provinces in southern Laos (Shear et al., 2003). The authors of the latter paper provided a good re-description, involving also SEM pictures of different external somatic characters and the gonopods. Shear et al. (2003) further commented on the possible function of gonopods, supposing that the cannula represents the “functional” element that inseminates the female during the copulation. They observed differences in the shape of gonopods in the Chinese and Laotian material, but having no access to the type material and reliable information about the range of variation of these characters, they preferred to adopt a more conservative