



A new genus and two new species of Lithobiid Centipedes (Chilopoda: Lithobiomorpha) from China

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Abstract

Validifemur **gen. n.** is described with two new species, *V. pedodontus* **sp. n.** and *V. zapparolii* **sp. n.**, from the Shanxi Province of North China. These new taxa have some exceptional morphological characters, especially the strong protuberance on the last pair of legs in male. Both species are described based on both male and female specimens.

Key words: new genus, *Validifemur*, new species, Lithobiidae, Shanxi, North China

Introduction

The myriapoda fauna of China, one of the megadiversity countries in the world, is still poorly known. In particular, as regards the Lithobiomorpha, only 13 genera and 56 species have been recorded up to now (Verhoeff, 1934, 1937; Takakuwa, 1939, 1941; Chamberlin & Wang, 1952; Wang, 1959, 1963; Wang & Mauris, 1996; Zhang, 1996; Eason, 1993, 1997; Chao, 2005). A new genus and two new species have recently been discovered when examining specimens of Lithobiomorpha from Shanxi Province. The descriptions of these new taxa are given below.

Material and methods

Centipedes were collected by hand or with nipper under stones and litter and preserved in 75% ethanol. Species identification was made with the aid of Motic-C stereoscope, made in China. All material is now preserved in the College of Life Sciences, Hebei University, Baoding, China.

The following abbreviations is used in the text and tables: T,TT—tergite, tergites, C—coxa, Tr—trochanter, P—prefemur, F—femur, Ti—tibia, a—anterior, m—median, p—posterior.

Taxonomy

Chilopoda Latreille, 1817

Lithobiomorpha Pocock, 1895

Lithobiidae Newport, 1844