



***Cylindroiulus mitta* n.sp., a new Tunisian millipede (Diplopoda, Julida: Julidae) and notes on the *Cylindroiulus distinctus* group**

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Abstract

Cylindroiulus mitta n.sp. is described from Cap Bon, northeastern Tunisia, and its assignment to the North African *C. distinctus* group is discussed. Descriptions of the female vulvae of other group members are presented, as well as illustrations of gonopods and vulvae of further *Cylindroiulus* species from Tunisia.

Key words: Taxonomy, Tunisia, North Africa

Résumé

Cylindroiulus mitta n. sp. est décrit de la région du Cap Bon, nord-est de Tunisie et son appartenance au groupe Nord africain *C. distinctus* est discutée. Des descriptions des vulves de femelles des autres espèces du groupe sont ici présentées ainsi que des illustrations des gonopodes et des vulves d'autres espèces du genre *Cylindroiulus* de Tunisie.

Introduction

Though North African millipedes are still incompletely known, many species of the genus *Cylindroiulus* Verhoeff, 1894 as defined by Read (1990) have been described from this geographic area (Brölemann, 1896; Attems, 1908; Silvestri 1896; Schubart, 1932, 1960; Read, 2005). A number of these species were placed in the (sub)genus *Phalloiulus* Brölemann, 1897, with type species *Iulus distinctus* Lucas, 1846, described from Algeria.

Recently, Read (1990) clarified the status of *Phalloiulus*, synonymising it under *Cylindroiulus*. More recently, Read (2005) defined a species group from North Africa, the *Cylindroiulus distinctus* group, for which she described 6 species new to science from Algeria.

The *Cylindroiulus distinctus* group is currently known to comprise 10 North African species: one described from Morocco, *C. rifanus* (Schubart, 1960) and 9 from Algeria, *C. distinctus* (Lucas, 1846), *C. algerinus* (Brölemann, 1897), *C. attemsi* Read, 2005, *C. gauthieri* Read, 2005, *C. djebelensis* Read, 2005, *C. jijelensis* Read, 2005, *C. ouridae* Read, 2005, *C. pavoalgerinus* Read, 2005, and *C. maurus* Read, 2005.

All these species share a number of similarities in external characters as well as in gonopod structures. According to Read (2005), the similarities consist chiefly in the lack (or very small size) of a telson projection, a tendency to large body size, large female vulvae, complicated male gonopods with a tendency to protrude, a reduced mesomerite, a large paracoxal rim, well separated solenomerite and brachite (processes of the