



Rediscovery, redescription, and illustrations of the milliped, *Mitocybe auriportae* Cook and Loomis, 1928 (Colobognatha: Platydesmida: Andrognathidae)

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Abstract

Mitocybe auriportae Cook and Loomis, 1928, is a thread-like, densely pubescent andrognathid milliped that lacks exoskeletal ornamentations and is equivalent in size to the veins in decaying leaves. Its anterior gonopods are dominated by a broad, subtriangular sternum; the falcate ultimate podomere arises subterminally and is directed ventrolaterad. The species is known from a single collection 91 years ago in Marin County, California; I report a new locality in Santa Cruz County and redescribe and illustrate somatic and gonopodal features. *Mitocybe* Cook and Loomis, 1928, is monotypic; a new species from Guerrero, Mexico, reported 30 years ago, is still undescribed and, from geographical proximity, probably referable to *Andrognathus* Cope, 1869. Somatic features of these genera are contrasted. The taxonomy of Platydesmida is uncertain because it is based on somatic, rather than gonopodal, features and because *Brachycybe* Wood, 1864, bridges the anatomical gap between the two component families. The family-group name, Mitocybeini Hoffman, 1980, is available to accommodate *Mitocybe*. *In situ* SEM examinations of colobognath gonopods do not show details of the anterior gonopod sternum, and studies on dissected gonopods are recommended.

Key words: *Mitocybe*, *M. auriportae*, Platydesmida, Andrognathidae, *Andrognathus*, *Brachycybe*, California, pubescence, gonopods

Introduction

On 23 November 1919, H. F. Loomis collected six individuals of a long, thread-like, non-tuberculate andrognathid milliped in Marin County (Co.), California, USA. As other long, slender California andrognathids have tuberculate dorsa, the millipeds were deemed to represent a new genus and species, and nine years later, Cook and Loomis (1928) proposed *Mitocybe auriportae* to accommodate this form. The name has subsequently been cited by Chamberlin and Hoffman (1958), Buckett (1964), Gardner (1975), Hoffman (1999), and Shelley (2002). Gardner (1975) noted that the milliped had only been collected once and that he had found other andrognathids at the type locality but not *M. auriportae*. Other than the holotype and one paratype each at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (NMNH), Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville (FSCA), and Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville (VMNH), I too had never seen *M. auriportae* despite examining hundreds of samples of California andrognathids and visiting the type locality myself to search for it. While recently perusing samples at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS), I discovered an unadorned, thread-like, densely pubescent andrognathid from Santa Cruz Co., and direct comparisons with the types showed it to be *M. auriportae*. Ninety-one years after its discovery, I therefore provide the second locality for this rarely encountered species along with an updated taxonomic account and illustrations of somatic and gonopodal features. Cook and Loomis (1928) provided only uninformative drawings of a leg and the gonopods under low-power, so the means to authoritatively identify *M. auriportae* does not presently exist.

According to Cook and Loomis (1928), the type-series consisted of six individuals, two males and four females; one male was designated holotype. It is preserved at the NMNH but is missing the head and at least