



First record of Symphyla (Myriapoda) from Iran, with description of a new species in *Scolopendrellopsis* (Scolopendrellidae)

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The first species of Symphyla was described in 1763 and many hundreds of papers on the group have since appeared with almost 200 species having been described. However, very few of them deal with material from Asia (Scheller, 1971, 1988, Scheller & Golovatch, 1982, Scheller & Mikhailjova, 2000) and not a single species has been recorded from Iran. Now one of us (M.R. Kavianpour) has collected them for the first time from there. They appeared in a study of soil-living mites in gardens with pomegranates and grapes in the vicinity of Shahreza in the Esfahan Province, about 500 km south of Teheran, 1800 m asl., and were obtained from Berlese extractions of soil samples down to a depth of 20–30 cm.

Both the type specimen of the new species and the other material have been deposited in the collections of the Zoological Museum, University of Lund, Sweden.

Family Scolopendrellidae Bagnall, 1913

Genus *Symphylella* Silvestri, 1902

Symphylella vulgaris (Hansen, 1903)

Material examined. Iran, Esfahan Province, Shahreza, garden with pomegranate and grape trees, in soil, 32°03'43.79"N 51°50'33.61"E, 6 ad., 12 Mars 2009; 32°02'03.46"N 51°53'10.00"E, 4 ad. 19 Mars 2009; 32°01'31.36"N 51°53'04.78"E, 1 ad., 4 April 2011; 32°03'25"N 51°50'47"E, 4 ad., 11 subad., 1 juv. 8, 5 May 2011; 32°02'03.46"N 51°10.00"E, 1 ad., 8 May 2011, all leg. M.R. Kavianpour. 28 specimens.

Remarks. *Symphylella vulgaris* is one of the most widely distributed symphylans known. It has been reported from the following regions: *Palaearctic region*, most countries from Norway to Russia in the north to Spain and Turkey in the south, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Azores, Madeira, Japan; *Ethiopian region*, many countries in tropical Africa, also on Madagascar, Réunion; *Oriental region*, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia; *Nearctic region*, USA; *Australian region*, New Zealand (more details in Scheller 1978)

Genus *Scolopendrellopsis* Bagnall, 1913

Scolopendrellopsis persicus Scheller n. sp.

Figs 1–7

Type locality. Iran, Esfahan Province, Shareza, 32°03'43.79"N 51°50'33.61"E.

Type specimen. Holotype. ad(♀), 12 Mars 2009, leg. M.R. Kavianpour. - 1 specimen.

Diagnosis. *S. persicus* n. sp. may be closest to the wide-spread *S. subnuda* (Hansen, 1903) but the new species has fewer head setae and thinner central rod. Good distinguishing characters are the shape of the central rod of the head, very thin in *S. persicus*, distinct in *S. subnuda*, the shape of the post-antennal organs, ovoid in *S. persicus*, not subspherical, the shape of the posterior appendages of the tergites II and III, more slender in *S. persicus* than in *S. subnuda* and the cerci are more setose in *S. persicus* than in *S. subnuda*.