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Redefinition of the millipede subgenus *Megaphyllum sensu stricto* Verhoeff, 1894 and neotype designation for *Megaphyllum austriacum* (Latzel, 1884) (Myriapoda: Diplopoda: Julida: Julidae)

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Abstract

Megaphyllum sensu stricto, i.e. the nominotypical subgenus of the very complicated genus *Megaphyllum* Verhoeff, 1894, is redefined on the basis of examination of type and non-type material and literature data. Four species-groups including twenty species in all are listed, and the identity of *M. austriacum* (C. L. Koch, 1838) is clarified with a proposal of neotype designation under ICZN Article 75.6. in order to stabilize the current usage of the name. Prevailing usage of *M. silvaticum* (Verhoeff, 1898) **syn. nov. (nomen protectum)** over the senior synonym *M. nigrescens* (Latzel, 1884) (**nomen oblitum**) is maintained under ICZN Article 23.9. *M. banaticum* (Verhoeff, 1899) is **syn. nov.** of *M. erythronotum* (Latzel, 1884) **comb. nov.**, *M. bosniense cotinophilum* (Loksa, 1962) **syn. nov.** of *M. bosniense bosniense* (Verhoeff, 1897) and *M. transylvanicum transdanubicum* (Loksa, 1962) **syn. nov.** of *M. transylvanicum transsylvanicum* (Verhoeff, 1897). *M. unilineatum* (C. L. Koch, 1838) is new to the fauna of Turkey.

Key words: millipede, *Brachyiulus*, *Chromatoiulus*, *Julus*, neotype, distribution, Loksa

Introduction

Megaphyllum Verhoeff, 1894 is the most speciose and subgenus-rich genus of the tribe Brachyiulini Verhoeff, 1909. The total number of species and subspecies were estimated to be more than 70 (Golovatch *et al.* 2004) or 87 (Lazányi *et al.* 2012). The history of the genus is complex and has previously been thoroughly discussed (see Lazányi & Korsós 2011; Lazányi *et al.* 2012). Although Verhoeff (1894d) gave a detailed description of the genus *Megaphyllum*, he subsequently synonymised it with *Brachyiulus sensu* Verhoeff (Verhoeff 1896b). Subsequent authors switched to *Chromatoiulus* (Attems 1927; Lohmander 1936) and together with the plesiomorphic nature of the defining traits the genus was treated as a “waste-paper basket” (Korsós 2001) of species having a flagellum but lacking a true mesomere. Several authors split the genus into subgenera (*e.g.* Lohmander 1936, Attems 1940) mostly on the basis of male gonopods (occasionally mentioning other traits like the form of the telson or modification of the male first leg-pair, *e.g.* Verhoeff 1900) resulting in 20 different and occasionally overlapping subgenera (*e.g.* subg. *Cyphobrachyiulus* Verhoeff, 1900, subg. *Diaxyulus* Attems, 1940 and subg. *Phauloiulus* Attems, 1940). In 1980 Hoffman clarified the problematic state of *Megaphyllum* and resurrected it as a valid taxon, while he listed all subgenus names without regard to status (Hoffman 1980).

A thorough revision of the whole genus on the basis of a wider character range is beyond the scope of a single paper. After revising the Balkan *Megaphyllum* fauna (Lazányi *et al.* 2012) we wanted to redefine and clarify the status of the nominotypical subgenus (*i.e.* *Megaphyllum s.str.*).

Material and methods

Thirteen species have already been discussed in details in the Balkan *Megaphyllum* checklist (Lazányi *et al.* 2012), thus synonym lists for these species are abbreviated: only the most important taxonomic publications and authors are listed to summarise the history of the species. Distribution data are also summarised for the Balkan species: only country-scale occurrences are mentioned and—if available—important faunistic papers or revisions are cited. On the other hand, the species which occur also/only outside the Balkan Peninsula (*i.e.* complete synonym lists and distribution data cannot be found in Lazányi *et al.* 2012 for them) are presented with detailed synonym lists and distributional records.

We examined material from the following museums: Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM); Museum of Nature Sciences, Berlin (“Museum für Naturkunde”, MNB); Natural History Museum of the City of Geneva (NHMG); Natural History Museum of Denmark, Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen (ZMUC); Natural History Museum, Vienna (“Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien”, NHMW); Non-insect Invertebrates Collection, National Museum of Natural History, Sofia (NMNHS); The Bavarian State Collection of Zoology (“Zoologische Staatssammlung, München”, ZSM); Zoological Museum with University, Hamburg (ZMUH). Additional, non-type material was examined from the second author’s (BV) personal collection. All material is preserved in 70% ethanol (except for slides) and all dissected parts are put into genitalia vials filled also with 70% ethanol. These genitalia vials were placed with the dissected individuals in a larger vial.

Although the investigated characters which are listed in the following paragraphs were examined in all species,

the southeast parts of the Balkan Peninsula, respectively. The *M. unilineatum* group is outstanding in the *sensu stricto* subgenus not only because of its distribution but also because of the fact that gonopods in the *M. unilineatum* group are the most similar to each other, as mentioned also by Golovatch (1990). The distinctiveness of the group is also supported by the characteristic structure of the vulvae, which differs significantly from those seen in other members of *M. s. str.* On the contrary, body colour is highly variable within the *M. unilineatum* group, all three colour types being represented. Thus species differ more in body colour than in gonopod structure. The importance of body colour for determination of closely similar species has already been shown in other millipede genera (e.g. Frederiksen *et al.* 2012). The *M. transsylvanicum* species-group seems to be the most obscure, showing certain similarities with the *austriacum*-group, and having a rather diffuse distribution. Future examinations, especially of vulvae, would either stabilize or reject its existence in the current species composition.

In conclusion, however unsettled the genus *Megaphyllum* is, its nominotypical subgenus (*i.e.* *Megaphyllum sensu stricto*) can clearly be defined on the basis of both male and female morphology. Among to the previously established subgenera, *Megaphyllum s.str.* is the most widespread and the most species-rich *Megaphyllum* subgenus, with its 20 species and 2 subspecies.

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