



An annotated checklist of Lithobiomorpha of China

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Abstract

The lithobiomorph centipede fauna of China is listed here based on literature data. A total of 68 species in 15 genera/subgenera in 2 families, Henicopidae and Lithobiidae, has been recorded from China. Three genera and forty-four species are known only from China, including the monotypic genera *Pterygotergum* and *Hedinobius*. The original descriptions of 16 nominal species were based on specimens of single sex only and 13 nominal species of *Lithobius* have never been allocated to a subgenus. *Lithobius (Lithobius) zhui* Pei, Ma, Shi, Wu & Gai, 2011 is moved to subgenus *Lithobius (Ezembius)*. Distribution data for each species is provided here to promote further studies on the Lithobiomorpha fauna of China.

Key words: checklist, Lithobiomorpha, Chilopoda, China

Introduction

Located in the east of the Asian continent, on the western shore of the Pacific Ocean, the People's Republic of China has a land area of about 9.6 million square kilometers, and is the third-largest country in the world. China has an ancient and complex geology. In terms of Plate Tectonics, China basically belongs to the Eurasian plate, connecting with the Indo plate in the south and joining the Pacific plate of the Philippine plate in the East (Wang & Mauriès, 1996).

However, the myriapod fauna of China is still poorly known and very little attention was paid to the study of Lithobiomorpha. In the Far East, the faunas of Japan (Takakuwa, 1941b), Eastern Russia (Zalesskaja, 1978) and Vietnam (Binh *et al.*, 2013) are probably the best known. The knowledge of Chinese Lithobiomorpha is very fragmentary and many species records and descriptions are widely scattered in the faunistic and taxonomic literature, but mainly in the publications of Attems (1901, 1934), Verhoeff (1933, 1934, 1938, 1942), Takakuwa (1939b; 1941a, b), Takakuwa & Takashima (1949), Chamberlin (1930), Chamberlin & Wang (1952), Loksa (1959), Wang (1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1963), Eason (1993, 1997), Zhang (1996), Ma *et al.* (2007a, b, c; 2008a, b, c, d; 2009a, b; 2012a, b; 2013), Pei *et al.* (2010, 2011a, b). The first species catalogue of Myriapoda of China was provided by Wang & Mauriès (1996).

The main purpose of this work is to trace and review comprehensively the literature concerning or including species of Lithobiomorpha from China and to provide an updated checklist of the Chinese Lithobiomorpha.

This checklist provides a functional compilation of records, references, updated species names, and annotations on distribution or taxonomical status. The present checklist should be regarded as an invitation for future studies on the Chinese lithobiomorph centipede fauna.

Material and methods

This annotated checklist of the Lithobiomorpha of the People's Republic of China (included Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) was compiled from a literature review. As most records were taken directly from the literature without

Genus *Pterygotergum* Verhoeff, 1933

Pterygotergum svenhedini Verhoeff, 1933

Pterygotergum svenhedini Verhoeff, 1933: 29

Pterygotergum svenhedini—Eason, 1992: 5

Pterygotergum svenhedini—Wang & Mauriès, 1996: 91

Pterygotergum svenhedini—Zapparoli, 2006

Previous records. Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Wulumuqi City) (Verhoeff, 1933).

Remarks. Only known from China.

Discussion

This updated checklist of Chinese Lithobiomorpha contains 68 species. The monotypic genera *Pterygotergum* and *Hedinobius* and forty-four species are only known from China. The taxonomic status of many species which have never been revised since their original description needs be confirmed: thirteen nominal species of *Lithobius* have never been allocated to a subgenus, e. g. *L. asulcutus*, *L. bidivisa*, *L. s. chengsiensis*, *L. decessus*, *L. femorisulcutus*, *L. kansuanus*, *L. kiayiensis*, *L. magnitergiferous*, *L. ongi*, *L. rarihirsutipes*, *L. schaeferi*, *L. sinensis*, *L. trichopus*; moreover, the original descriptions of 16 nominal species are based on specimens of single sex, furthermore, 9 nominal species are based on single specimens.

China is a large region including two zoogeographical zones, moreover, it has various habitats such as cold, temperate and tropical zones. It shares with neighbouring countries some lithobiomorphs (e.g. *Cermatobius longicornis*, *C. longitarsis*, *Lamyctes gracilipes*, *La. pachypes*, *Lithobius (Chinobius) pectinatus*, *L. (Ch.) sachalinus*, *L. (Ezembius) mandschreiensis*, *L. (E.) parvicornis*, *L. (Monotarsobius) crassipes*, *L. (M.) ferganensis*, *L. (M.) holstii*, *L. (M.) ramulosus*, *L. (Sigibius) bullatus*, *L. sulcipes*, *Australobius magnus*, *Bothropolys curvatus*, *B. imaharensis*, *B. montanus*, *B. richthofeni*, *B. rugosus*, *Paobius pachypedatus*).

Certainly, our knowledge of Chinese lithobiomorphs is still far from complete. We hope that we can make further studies to improve their knowledge.

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