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## A review of the *orientalis* group of the *Otostigmus* subgenus *Otostigmus* Porat, 1876 (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae)

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### Abstract

The *Otostigmus* subgenus *Otostigmus*, which currently comprises 58 species, was subdivided by Lewis (2010a) into nine species groups based on Attems' (1930a) monograph. The *orientalis* group comprising 19 species and two subspecies is the subject of this paper. In most cases, the type material is redescribed and variation discussed. The following species are valid: *O. ateles* Chamberlin, 1920, *O. australianus* Attems, 1930, *O. brevidentatus* Verhoeff, 1937, *O. foveolatus* Verhoeff, 1937, *O. kashmiranus* Lewis, 1992, *O. metallicus* Haase, 1887, *O. multidentens multidentens* Haase, 1887, *O. oatesi* Kraepelin, 1903, *O. orientalis* Porat, 1876, *O. ruficeps* Pocock, 1890, and *O. striolatus* Verhoeff, 1937. *O. seychellarum* Attems, 1900, is reinstated as a valid species and *O. niasensis* Silvestri, 1895, and *O. sucki* Kraepelin, 1903 which may be *O. metallicus* are regarded as valid pro tem.

*O. greggi* Chamberlin, 1944, is a junior subjective synonym of *O. astenus* (Kohlrausch, 1881), and *O. loriae* Silvestri, 1895, and *O. multidentens carens* Attems, 1938, junior subjective synonyms of *O. multidentens*. *O. loriae nordicus* Schileyko, 1995, becomes *O. multidentens nordicus* comb. nov. *O. nemorensis* Silvestri, 1895, *O. poonamae* Khanna & Tripathi, 1986, and *O. telus* Chamberlin, 1939, are nomina dubia.

A key to the species is provided.

**Key words:** synonymy, nomina dubia, key

### Introduction

Attems' (1930) key to *Otostigmus* (subgenus *Otostigmus*), members of which are found from the Canary Islands through Africa and Asia to Australia and New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific, contains 40 species. Several of these have subsequently been synonymised and further species described or reinstated so that Minelli, Bonato, Dioguardi *et al.* (2006 onwards) accessed 30.07.2014, list 56 species to which should be added *O. gravelyi* (Jangi & Dass, 1984) listed as *Digitipes gravelyi* and *O. ruficeps* Pocock, 1890 listed as a junior synonym of *O. multidentens* Haase, 1887, see Joshi & Edgecombe (2013).

In order to facilitate the revision of this comparatively large subgenus Lewis (2010a) divided it into nine species groups based on Attems (1930) key and reviewed the 19 species and three subspecies of his *rugulosus* group. The 19 species and two subspecies of the *orientalis* group reviewed here are characterised by having antennae with 17–22 articles, the basal 2–2.66 (rarely 3) glabrous dorsally; tergites marginate at least from T17, without keels or with them at most moderately developed, and the coxopleural process without a dorsal spine. *Otostigmus seychellarum* Attems, 1900, most specimens of which have well-developed spinous tergite keels, is included here as it is obviously closely related to *O. orientalis*, Porat, 1876, although most specimens run down to the *scaber* group.

As with members of the *rugulosus* group some of the species are very similar and specimens show both individual and geographical variation so, with the present state of our knowledge, it is not always clear whether separate species or individual variants are being dealt with especially as some 'species' are known only from single specimens. Problems arise as antennae and ultimate legs are often subject to damage and or loss and regeneration and coxosternal teeth subject to some variation and wear. Reassessment will almost certainly be necessary as

- Tergites without keels or spines. Sternite of ultimate leg-bearing segment trapeziform. The posterior margin rounded, straight or concave. Two tarsal spurs on first 3, 4 or 5 pairs of legs ..... 10
- 10 Leg 20 with a tarsal spur, coxopleuron with a lateral spine. .... *O. orientalis* India
- Leg 20 without a tarsal spur, coxopleuron without a lateral spine. . *O. oatesi* Burma and possibly India (requires confirmation).
- 11 Sternite paramedian sutures complete. Coxopleuron with four apical and one lateral spine ..... *O. kashmiranus* India.
- With short anterior paramedian sutures or none. Coxopleuron with two apical and one lateral spine (three apicals only in *O. niasensis*). .... 12
- 12 Ultimate leg prefemur with two rows of spines (VM 3, VL 2–3) or three rows, each of two spines, no corner spine. Usually legs 1–17 to 1–19 with two tarsal spurs ..... *O. ruficeps* India.
- Ultimate leg prefemur with three or four rows of spines and a corner spine. First 1–3, 4 or 5 pairs of legs with two tarsal spurs ..... 13
- 13 Coxopleuron with three apical spines (no lateral spine). Ultimate leg without a tarsal spur ..... *O. niasensis* Sumatra.
- Coxopleuron with two apical and one lateral spine. Ultimate leg with a tarsal spur ..... 14
- 14 Sternite of ultimate leg-bearing segment trapezoidal (Fig.39). Tergites generally without spinules ..... *O. metallicus* SE Asian Islands.
- Sternite of ultimate leg-bearing segment parallel sided. (Fig. 66). Tergites with spinules ..... *O. sucki* Borneo.

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