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Genus *Leptoiulus* Verhoeff, 1894 new to the fauna of the Asian part of Russia, with description of a new species from the Altai and its comparison with the European *Leptoiulus trilineatus* (C.L. Koch, 1847) (Diplopoda, Julida, Julidae)

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Abstract

The diplopod genus *Leptoiulus* Verhoeff, 1894 is new to the fauna of the Asian part of Russia, due to the discovery of *L. tigirek* sp. nov. from the south-western part of the Altai Province, Siberia. A description of the new species and information on its habitats, numbers and locomotor activity as well as comparison with the European *Leptoiulus trilineatus* (C.L. Koch, 1847) are presented.

Key words: millipede, julids, *Leptoiulus*, new species, description, juxtaposition, Siberia, Russia

Introduction

Knowledge of the millipede fauna of the Altai is still incomplete. Evidence of this is that a new species of *Leptoiulus*, not recorded previously from the Asian part of Russia (Mikhaljova 2004), has been found in the southwestern part of the Altai Province. This large genus, with more than 70 species, is widely distributed in Europe and it has also been recorded in Azerbaijan and Georgia, Caucasus (Jawłowski 1929; Lohmander 1936) and Iran (Lohmander 1932; Enghoff & Moravvej 2005). The present find is the easternmost known record of *Leptoiulus*. This contribution describes the new species, provides data on its habitats, numbers and locomotor activity as well as comparison with the European *Leptoiulus trilineatus*.

Material and methods

Material on the new species treated here has been shared between the collections of the Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Far Eastern Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia (IBSS), Altai State University, Barnaul, Russia (ASU) and Zoological Museum, State University of Moscow, Russia (ZMUM), as indicated in the text. In addition, one male of *Leptoiulus trilineatus* from the Natural History Museum of Denmark (Zoological Museum), University of Copenhagen, Denmark (ZMUC) was examined and the sample was transferred to IBSS.

Specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. In the process of studying the material, the gonopods and some other parts were dissected from a limited number of males and females and mounted in glycerin as temporary micropreparations. Specimens were studied and illustrated using standard stereomicroscopic and drawing equipment. Coloration of the specimens is described from alcohol material. SEM micrographs were prepared at the Centre of Collective Use “Biotechnology and Gene Engineering” of the Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Far Eastern Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia (IBSS) using a Zeiss Evo 40 scanning electron