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## On Verhoeff's *Otostigmus* subgenus *Malaccopleurus*, the *nudus* group of *Otostigmus* subgenus *Otostigmus* Porat, 1876, and *Digitipes* Attems, 1930, with a description of the foetus stadium larva in *O. sulcipes* Verhoeff, 1937, (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae)

JOHN G. E. LEWIS

Manor Mill Farm, Halse, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3AQ, UK. E-mail: [johngelewis@realemail.co.uk](mailto:johngelewis@realemail.co.uk)

### Abstract

The species of Verhoeff's Southeast Asian subgenus *Malaccopleurus* (an unavailable name) are here assigned to subgenus *Otostigmus*. His *Otostigmus* (*M.*) *trisulcatus* Verhoeff, 1937 is a junior subjective synonym of *O. (M.) sulcipes* Verhoeff, 1937. The foetus stadium of *O. sulcipes* is described. *Otostigmus* (*M.*) *sutteri* Würmli, 1972, is also assigned to the subgenus *Otostigmus* and may be conspecific with *O. geophilinus* Haase, 1887, the specimens of which show some variation. The specimen from Teinzo, Myanmar with labels *O. politus* Karsch, 1881, and *O. geophilinus* is of uncertain identity. *Otostigmus sulcipes* closely resembles *O. nudus* Pocock, 1890, and *O. taeniatus* Pocock, 1896, of Lewis's (2010) *nudus* group. *Otostigmus lawrencei* Dobroruka, 1968, resembles a *Cormocephalus* species and is of uncertain identity.

The genus *Digitipes* is characterised by the process on the femur of the ultimate legs in males. Three African species have been recognised. The males of *Digitipes verdascens* Attems, 1930, *D. reichardt* (Kraepelin, 1903) are known but *D. krausi* Dobroruka, 1968, lacks the femoral process and was described as a female. In these three species, only the tergite of the ultimate leg-bearing segment is marginate but in other characters *D. krausi* resembles *Otostigmus* species and is assigned to *Otostigmus* as *O. krausi* (Dobroruka, 1968) comb. nov. The Indian *Digitipes periyarensis* Joshi & Edgecombe, 2013, which differs markedly from other *Digitipes* species is a junior subjective synonym of *Otostigmus nudus*.

It is possible that future molecular studies may show that some species currently assigned to *Otostigmus* are, in fact, *Digitipes*.

**Key words:** synonymy

### Introduction

Verhoeff (1937) erected the subgenus *Malaccopleurus* for two species of *Otostigmus* from Peninsular Malaysia, *O. (M.) sulcipes* and *O. (M.) trisulcatus*. The new subgenus was characterised by having only the first pair of legs with a tibial spur (sic!), coxopleural pores relatively few and limited to the ventral half of the coxopleuron. The pore-field only slightly wider anteriorly than posteriorly. Anteriorly never more than six pores in [each] transverse row, leaving the greater part of the complex pore-free. [Each] tooth-plate without a deep notch [between the teeth]. Würmli described a third species: *Otostigmus (M.) sutteri* Würmli, 1972.

Verhoeff did not designate a type species for *Malaccopleurus* and, as Jeekel (2005) noted, it is thus an unavailable name. Consequently a search for *Malaccopleurus* in Chilobase (Minelli *et al.* 2006 onwards) gives "No results!" although it is listed under unavailable names. The three putative species are listed under *Otostigmus* without assignment to a subgenus. They are reviewed here, assigned to the subgenus *Otostigmus*, *O. (M.) trisulcatus* being a junior synonym of *O. sulcipes*.

*Otostigmus sulcipes* is very similar to the Indian *O. nudus* Pocock, 1890, and the Kenyan *O. taeniatus* Pocock, 1896, two species of the *nudus* group of the subgenus *Otostigmus*. This group is one of the nine species groups based on Attems (1930b) key that Lewis (2010) proposed in order to facilitate the revision of subgenus. The group