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A CATALOGUE OF THE MILLIPEDES OF CRETE (MYRIAPODA: DIPLOPODA)

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SYNOPSIS

The present paper provides a review of the millipede fauna of Crete. Currently it comprises 25 species belonging to 16 genera, 8 families (Polyxenidae, Glomeridellidae, Andrognathidae, Julidae, Schizopetalidae, Anthroleucosomatidae, Polydesmidae, Paradoxosomatidae) and 7 orders. Species richest are the families Julidae with 8 species and subspecies and Polydesmidae with 5 species. Approximately 36% of all hitherto known species are local endemics, while those with wider distribution in Greece, Mediterranean realm or Europe account for 20%, 32% and 12%, respectively.

INTRODUCTION

With a territory of 8,336 km^2 Crete is the largest of the Greek islands and the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. It is situated at the border between the Aegean and Libyan seas, approximately 300 km north of the African coast, 100 km south of the mainland Greece, and 200 km west of Asia Minor. It is surrounded by more than 50 islets, with Gavdos (32 km^2) being the largest and the only one that is currently populated. The majority of the islets are less than 5 km^2 in surface, and lie close to the coastline of Crete. The island has a mountainous character with 12.5% of its surface being above 800 m a.s.l. and 1.6% above 1600 m altitude. The mountains Lefka Ori in the western part, Psiloreitis in the central part and Lasithiotika Ori (Dikti and Thrypti) in the eastern part are higher than 2000 m a.s.l. In total, 56 summits exceed 2000 m altitude (see e.g., Chatzaki et al., 2005).

The Cretan archipelago was formed at the end of the Miocene when it was isolated from Asia Minor in the east and from the area of Kyklades in the north. At the beginning of the Pliocene it was isolated from the Greek mainland. The Cretan mountains are quite new in geological time. Until the early Pliocene (5 Ma) Crete was composed of a mosaic of landmasses that did not exceed the altitude of 500 m a.s.l. (Meulenkamp et al., 1988). The altitudinal zone above 1500 m altitude was formed as a result of pronounced uplifts that took place after the Pleistocene (1.5 Ma) (Meulenkamp et al., 1994).

In terms of biodiversity, Greece is ranked among the species-richest countries in Europe (Sfenthourakis & Legakis, 2001). However, still several invertebrate groups remain poorly studied in the country. Millipedes (Diplopoda) being one of them. The Greek millipede fauna comprises 143 species belonging to 17 families and 8 orders (Enghoff, 2010). While most researchers emphasized on the study of the fauna of mainland Greece, large islands and archipelagos such as Dodecanese and North Aegean islands remain only marginally explored. Strikingly, despite of its large size, the millipede fauna of Crete is also relatively unknown. Out current knowledge derives mainly from scattered old papers (e.g. Lucas, 1853; Daday, 1891; Verhoeff, 1901; Attems, 1902; Schubart, 1934; Lang, 1964). The few contemporary taxonomic studies that mention data from Crete are those of STRASSER (1967, 1970, 1974, 1976), THALER (1999), NGUYEN DUY-JACQUEMIN (2000) and ĆURČIĆ et al. (2001). Fauna Europaea version 2.2 – an online database for terrestrial animals of Europe lists 18 species from Crete (Enghoff, 2010).

The purpose of the present paper is to present a preliminary catalogue of the millipede fauna of Crete based on the published data.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the literature sources relevant to the millipedes of Crete were checked for information regarding the distribution of each species on Crete, its altitudinal range and the habitats in which it was found. In addition we also provide information about the distribution of the species in Greece and the world. The currently valid scientific names in the catalogue (in bold) are verified against Fauna Europaea (Enghoff, 2010), all other names in the list after the valid one are given as originally cited in the publications. The list of records for each species is arranged chronologically starting with the oldest record. Each record is numbered with [1], [2], [3], and so on in front of the scientific name. The figure in square brackets after each locality or habitat indicates the literature source. Habitat information is given as originally quoted in the literature. Unless expressly mentioned in the publication, the altitude of each locality is obtained from Google Earth. The habitats are separated by comma.

CATALOGUE

POLYXENIDA

Family Polyxenidae

Polyxenus albus POCOCK, 1894

[1] *Polyxenus albus*: Nguen Duy-Jacquemin, 2000: 251, figs 1-12.

Localities: 'Valée de la mort' near Kato Zakros [1];

Altitude: 70 – 120 m;

Habitat: in the soil, under *Quercus sp.*

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Karpathos, Zante, Corfu;

General distribution: French mainland, Corsica, Italian mainland (Genoa), Croatia (Krk and Plavnik islands), Greece, Near East (doubtful).

GLOMERIDA

Family Glomeridellidae

Typhloglomeris asiaeminoris (STRASSER, 1975)

[1] *Albanoglomus asiaeminoris*: Thaler, 1999: 195, figs 1-5.

Localities: near Georgioupoli (100 m) [1];

Altitude: 100 m;

Habitat: missing data;

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland;

General distribution: Greece, Near East.

PLATYDESMIDA

Family Andrognathidae

Dolistenus savii FANZAGO, 1874

Localities: unspecified locality (Enghoff, 2010);

Altitude: missing data;

Habitat: missing data;

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland;

General distribution: Croatia, Greece, Italian mainland, Sicily, Near East, North Africa.

JULIDA

Family Julidae

Brachyiulus stuxbergi (FANZAGO, 1875)

[1] *Brachyiulus stuxbergi*: Strasser, 1967: 283, figs 17-18; [2] *Brachyiulus stuxbergi* Strasser, 1974: 268; [3] *Brachyiulus stuxbergi*: Ćurčić et al., 2001: 103.

Localities: Topolia (300-380 m), Omalos (Gorge) (860 m) [1]; Ierapetra (30 m) [2]; Mt. Lefka Ori (800 m) [3].

Altitude: 30 – 860 m;

Habitat: missing data;

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland;

General distribution: Greece, Malta, Italian mainland.

Megaphyllum cretica (STRASSER, 1976)

[1] *Chromatoiulus margaritatus* var. *cretica* Strasser, 1976: 620, fig. 67, 68; [2] *Megaphyllum cretica*: Ćurčić et al., 2001: 105.

Localities: Mt. Lefka Ori (2000 m) (type locality) [1]; Mt. Lefka Ori (2200 m) [2];

Altitude: 2000 – 2200 m;

Habitat: missing data;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Greece.

Megaphyllum taygeti (STRASSER, 1976)

Localities: unspecified locality (Enghoff, 2010)

Altitude: missing data;

Habitat: missing data;

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland;

General distribution: Greece.

Amblyiulus creticus (VERHOEFF, 1901)

[1] *Pachyiulus* (*Dolichoiulus*) *creticus* Verhoeff, 1901: 265, figs 22-23; [2] *Pachyiulus* (*Dolichoiulus*) *obscurus* Attems 1902: 608, figs 42-45; [3] *Amblyiulus creticus*: Lang, 1964: 239; [4] *Amblyiulus creticus*: Strasser, 1974: 282; [5] *Amblyiulus creticus*: Strasser, 1976: 631.

Localities: Vianos (640 m) [1]; Mournies (40 m), Sfakia (30 m), Aselakia, Dafnes (300 m), Assomatos (220 m); [2] Cave at Sarchos (240 m) [3, 5]; Foinikodasos (sea level) [4]; Stomio (sea level) [5].

Altitude: 0 – 640 m;

Habitat: forest, cave;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Greece.

Pachyiulus asiaeminoris VERHOEFF, 1898

[1] *Pachyiulus asiaeminoris*: Strasser, 1974: 282, figs 78, 79 ; [2] *Pachyiulus asiaeminoris*: Ćurčić et al., 2001: 105.

Localities: Ierapetra (30 m) [1]; Mt. Lefka Ori (800 m) [2];
Altitude: 30 – 800 m;
Habitat: missing data;
Distribution in Greece: Crete, Dodecanese Is.;
General distribution: Greece, Near East.

Pachyiulus varius (FABRICIUS, 1781)

[1] *Iulus obescus* Lucas, 1853: 528; [2] *Julus varius*: Daday, 1891: 173; [3] *Pachyiulus flavipes*: Verhoeff, 1901: 247; [4] *Pachyiulus flavipes*: Attems, 1902: 604; [5] *Pachyiulus flavipes*: Lang, 1964: 239; [6] *Pachyiulus flavipes*: Strasser, 1974: 281; [7] *Pachyiulus varius*: Ćurčić et al., 2001: 105.

Localities: Caves of Sarchos (240 m) [1]; Panormo (sea level) [2]; Wiomo [3]; Canea, Nerokouros (70 m), Samarias Gorge (340 m), Agia Roumeli (30 m), Sfakia (30 m), Limbros-Gorge, Askifou (850 m), Galos (200 m), Assomatos (220 m), Visari [4]; Katholico cave (Moni Gouvernetou), Cave of Milatos (100 m), Kolymbari (sea level), Gria Spilia, Caves of Kamilari (Coubbedes) (20 m), Koutrouli Cave (Moni Gouvernetou), Cave of Agia Triada (60 m) Hellenospilio (Afrata) (140 m), Caves of Saint Konstantinos (Milatos), Cave of Melidoni (100 m) (Perama), Koubes (sea level), Cave of Kourna (280 m), Arkoudas Cave (Moni Gouvernetou) [5]; Ierapetra (30 m), Agios Nikolaos (sea level), Kastelli (300 m), Chalepa, Akrotiri (140 m), Rethimno (sea level m), Knossos (100 m) [6]; Mt. Lefka Ori (1200 m) [7].

Altitude: 0 – 1200 m;
Habitat: cave;
Distribution in Greece: Crete, Cyclades Is., Dodecanese Is.
General distribution: Balearic Is., Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, European Turkey.

CALLIPODIDA

Family Schizopetalidae

Acanthopetalum furculigerum (VERHOEFF, 1901)

[1] *Lysiopetalum* (*Acanthopetalum*) *furculigerum* Verhoeff, 1901: 258 figs 2-3 (see also p. 247); [2] *Acanthopetalum furculigerum*: Strasser, 1974: 254; [3] *Acanthopetalum furculigerum* Strasser, 1976: 595, 599 (key to varieties and subspecies) figs 21, 22, 25.

Localities: Lassithi Gorge (400 m) (type locality) [1]; Psichro cave in Lassithi Gorge (1000 m) [2]; Cave at Agia Paraskevi at Skoteino (180 m) [3].

Altitude: 180 – 1000 m;
Habitat: caves;
Distribution in Greece: Crete;
General distribution: Greece.

Acanthopetalum furculigerum transitionis STRASSER, 1976

[1] *Acanthopetalum furculigerum transitionis* Strasser, 1976: 597, fig. 23, 24, 26

Localities: Cave Milatos near Milatos (100 m) (type locality) [1]

Altitude: 100 m;

Habitat: cave;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Greece.

Acanthopetalum minotauri (ATTEMS, 1902)

[1] *Lysiopetalum (Acanthopetalum) minotauri* Attems, 1902: 588, figs 20-29; [2] *Rhopalopetalum calyciferum* Verhoeff, 1929: 116, figs 1-4; [3] *Lysiopetalum* (*Rhopalopetalum*) *calyciferum*: Lang, 1964: 239; [4] *Lysiopetalum macedo-nicum* Lang, 1964: 239; [5] *Acanthopetalum minotauri* Strasser, 1970: 245; [6] *Acanthopetalum minotauri*: Strasser, 1974: 254; [7] *Acanthopetalum furculi-gerum* subsp. *minotauri*: Strasser, 1976: 600; [8] *Acanthopetalum minotauri*: Ćurčić et al., 2001: 103, fig. 4-6; [9] *Acanthopetalum minotauri* Attems var. *dentata* Strasser, 1967: 278, fig. 6-9; [10] *Acanthopetalum minotauri* Attems var. *edentula* Strasser, 1967: 278, fig. 10, 11.

Localities: Labyrinth at Ampeluzo (180 m) (type locality), Omalos (1200 m) (type locality), Aselakia (type locality), Samarias Gorge (340 m) (type locality), Assomatos (200 m) (type locality), Galos (200 m) (type locality), Rethimno (sea level) (type locality) [1]; a cave near Labyrinth [2]; Katholico Cave (Moni Gouvernetou) (60 m), between Marathospila and the spring of Psihro, Cave of Agia Triada (170 m), Hellenospilio (Afrata) (150 m) [3]; Katholico cave (Moni Gouvernetou) (60 m) [4]; Knossos (100 m), Vrises at Rethimno (580 m), Agios Nikolaos (sea level) [5]; Kalybes (sea level), Xiro Chorio, Katholico cave (Moni Gouvernetou) (60 m) Peninsula Akrotiri (140 m), Kumarospilia Akrotiri (Chania), Lera cave [6]; Cave Sfendoni at Zoniana (680 m), Katholico Akrotiri (60 m) [7]; Mt. Lefka Ori (2000 m) [8]; Topolia, Cave of Agia Sofia (270 m) [9]; Sfakia (30 m), Macchias, Knossos (100 m) [10].

Altitude: 0 – 2000 m

Habitat: caves;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Greece;

Remark: Lang (1964) reported *Lysiopetalum macedonicum* from the Catholico Cave on Crete, but taking into account the general poor quality of his works this find could be due to missidentification.

Prolysiopetalum scabratum (L. KOCH, 1867)

[1] *Lysiopetalum* (*Schizopetalum*) *scabratum* (sub. *peloponnesiaca*?): Attems, 1902: 594; [2] *Prolysiopetalum* (*Heterocraspedum*) *scabratum*: Strasser, 1974: 256, figs 44-46.

Localities: Mournies (40 m), Nerokouros (70 m), Rethimno (10 m), Galos (200 m) [1]; Kournas (280 m), Kalybes (sea level), Agia [2].

Altitude: 0 – 280 m;

Habitat: under leaves;

Distribution in Greece: mainland Greece and the islands of Crete, Corfu, Zakynthos, Cephalonia and Lefkada (Stoev et al., 2008);

General distribution: Greece.

CHORDEUMATIDA

Family Anthroleucosomatidae

Anamastigona penicillata (ATTEMS, 1902)

[1] *Prodicus penicillatus* Attems, 1902: 585, figs 15-19.

Localities: Aselakia (Askifou) (850 m) (type locality) [1];

Altitude: 850 m;

Habitat: litter of olive trees;

General distribution: Crete;

Distribution in Greece: Greece.

Anamastigona mediterranea ĆURČIĆ, MAKAROV & LYMBERAKIS, 2001

[1] *Anamastigona mediterranea* Ćurčić et al., 2001: 100, figs 1-3.

Localities: Mt. Lefka Ori (800 m) (type locality) [1]

Altitude: 800 m;

Habitat: missing data;

General distribution: Crete;

Distribution in Greece: Greece.

POLYDESMIDA

Family Polydesmidae

Polydesmus graecus DADAY, 1889

[1] *Polydesmus graecus*: Attems, 1902: 583, figs 13, 14; [2] *Polydesmus graecus graecus*: Strasser, 1970: 244; [3] *Polydesmus graecus*: Ćurčić et al., 2001: 99, figs 7-10.

Localities: Askifou (850m), Aselakia forest, Lakki (50 m), Nerokouros (70 m), Mournies (40 m), Dafnes (300 m), Labyrinthes (200 m) [1]; Perama, Anogia (740 m),

Melidoni (100 m), Vrises at Rethimno (580 m), Knossos (100 m) [2]; Mt. Lefka Ori (800 m) [3];

Altitude: 40 – 850 m;

Habitat: forest, cave;

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland, Dodekanese Is.

General distribution: Greece.

Polydesmus rubellus ATTEMS, 1902

[1] *Polydesmus rubellus* Attems, 1902: 584; [2] *Polydesmus rubellus*: Lang, 1964: 239; [3] *Polydesmus rubellus*: Strasser, 1970: 244, fig. 13.

Localities: Nerokouros (70 m) (type locality) [1]; Spilia (150 m) [2]; Vrises at Rethimno (580 m), the ruins of Knossos (100 m) [3];

Altitude: 70 – 580 m;

Habitat: [1] *Platanus* forest, ruins;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Greece, Bulgaria.

Polydesmus syrensis VERHOEFF, 1893

[1] *Polydesmus graceus syrensis*: Strasser, 1970: 244, fig. 12; [2] Ćurčić et al., 2001: 100.

Localities: Sitia (50 m) [1], Mt. Lefka Ori (800 m) [2]

Altitude: 50 – 800 m;

Habitat: missing data ;

Distribution in Greece: Cyclades, Dodekanese Is.

General distribution: Greece.

Serradium sbordonii STRASSER, 1976

[1] *Serradium sbordonii* Strasser, 1976: 587, figs 12-13.

Localities: Cave Sfendoni at Zoniana (680 m) (type locality), Cave of Melidoni (100 m) [1].

Altitude: 100 – 680 m;

Habitat: cave;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Greece.

Cretodesmus obliquus STRASSER, 1974

[1] *Cretodesmus obliquus* Strasser, 1974: 237, figs 18, 19.

Localities: Katholico Cave (Moni Gouvernetou) (630m) (type locality), Koumarospilia (type locality) [1] ;

Altitude: 630 m ;

Habitat: cave ;

Distribution in Greece: Crete ;
General distribution: Greece.

***Brachydesmus* sp. indet.**
[1] *Brachydesmus* sp.: Attems, 1902: 585.
Localities: Omalos (1200 m), Askifou (850 m), Aselakia [1]
Altitude: 850-1200 m;
Habitat: forest.

Family Paradoxosomatidae

Stosatea cretica (VERHOEFF, 1901)
[1] *Strongylosoma creticum* Verhoeff, 1901: 254, figs 28, 29.
Localities: Vianos (640 m) (type locality) [1];
Altitude: 640 m;
Habitat: missing data;
Distribution in Greece: Crete;
General distribution: Greece.

Lohmanderodesmus galeatus SCHUBART, 1934
[1] *Lohmanderodesmus galeatus* Schubart, 1934: 181, figs 3-6.
Localities: Iraklio (sea level) [1];
Altitude: sea level;
Habitat: missing data;
Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland, Dodecanese Is.
General distribution: Greece, Turkey, Near East.

UNCERTAIN SPECIES AND RECORDS

Julus merontis ATTEMS, 1902
[1] *Julus* (*Microiulus*) *merontis* Attems, 1902: 594, figs 39-41.
Localities: Omalos (1220 m) (type locality), Lakki (50 m) (type locality), Agia Roumeli (30 m) (type locality), Nerokouros (70 m) (type locality), Mournies (40 m) (type locality), Assomatos (220 m) (type locality) [1];
Altitude: 40 – 1220 m;
Habitat: under leaves;
Distribution in Greece: Crete, Greek mainland;
General distribution: Greece.

Amblyiulus aphrodite (ATTEMS, 1902)

[1] *Amblyiulus aphrodite*: Lang, 1964: 239.

Localities: Caves of Sarchos (240 m) [1]

Altitude: 240 m;

Habitat: guano;

Distribution in Greece: Crete, Dodekanese Is.

General distribution: Greece, Cyprus.

Stosatea italica (LATZEL 1886)

[1] *Strongylosoma mediterraneum*: Daday, 1891: 179.

Localities: Panormo (sea level) [1]

Altitude: sea level;

Habitat: missing data;

Distribution in Greece: Crete;

General distribution: Sicily, Balearic Is., Britain I., Ireland, North Africa, Austria, Canary Is., Corsica, Croatia, French mainland, Germany, Hungary, Italian mainland, Luxembourg, Madeira, Malta, Monaco, Sardinia, Switzerland.

CONCLUSIONS

At present, the Cretan millipede fauna comprises 25 species belonging to 16 genera, 8 families (Polyxenidae, Glomeridellidae, Andrognathidae, Julidae, Schizopetalidae, Anthroleucosomatidae, Polydesmidae, Paradoxosomatidae) and 7 orders. Species richest are the families Julidae with 8 species-group taxa and Polydesmidae with 5 species. Two species, *Amblyiulus aphrodite* and *Julus merontis*, are of uncertain taxonomic status, while the old record of '*Strongylosoma*' *mediterraneum* (Daday, 1891), a species currently known as *Stosatea italica*, need to be confirmed with fresh samples from Crete. Approximately 36% of all hitherto known on Crete species are local endemics, while those with wider distribution in Greece, Mediterranean realm or Europe account for 20%, 32% and 12%, respectively. The species composition of several geographical areas, such as central and eastern Crete (e.g., Psiloreitis Mt., Dikti Mt.) and the satellite islands remain marginally or completely unknown. The ecological and biological characteristics of the Cretan millipedes are poorly known too. These figures will significantly change when more profound taxonomic studies are undertaken in future.

This is an initial step of a long-term process aiming at studying the extremely rich millipede fauna of Crete and Greece. The study will continue with investigation of the rich millipede collections kept in the Natural History Museum of Crete and the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia.

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