

## A new genus of millipedes (Diplopoda: Polydesmida: Dalodesmidae) from Tasmania, Australia with a mosaic distribution

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### Abstract

*Atrophotergum silvaticum* n. gen., n. sp. (type species), *A. bonhami* n. sp., *A. montanum* n. sp., *A. pastorale* n. sp., *A. sodalis* n. sp., and *A. wurrawurraense* n. sp. are described. The six species have a tightly fitted mosaic distribution in Tasmania. *Atrophotergum* species are among the ‘head + 19 segments’ Australasian dalodesmids with a conspicuous pit on the underside of somite 2 in males, and relatively small metatergites on somites 3 and 4 in both sexes. The solenomerite in *Atrophotergum* is carried on a large posterior projection arising midway along the telopodite.

**Key words:** Diplopoda, Polydesmida, Dalodesmidae, Tasmania, Australia, biogeography

### Introduction

The Australian and New Zealand fauna of ‘head + 19 segments’ dalodesmid Polydesmida (head + 17 podous rings + 1 apodous ring + telson) is rich in both species and genera. A number of these dalodesmids have a conspicuous pit on the underside of somite 2 in males (Fig. 3), and relatively small metatergites on somites 3 and 4 in both sexes (Fig. 1A). Both features are present in the speciose New Zealand genus *Icosidesmus* Humbert and de Saussure, 1869 (Johns 1964), and a second, undescribed genus from New Zealand (‘genus F’) has been reported to have the somite 2 pit (Johns 1970). In Tasmania, at least three undescribed species groups have both features. I here gather under the name *Atrophotergum* n. gen. a group of species in which the size difference between the somite 3 and 4 metatergites and more posterior metatergites is particularly large in males, and in which the solenomerite is carried on a large posterior projection of the telopodite. *Atrophotergum* species are notable in having a tightly fitted mosaic distribution within Tasmania, and in the two species in which females have been recognised with confidence (*A. montanum* n. sp. and *A. silvaticum* n. sp.), males are larger than females.