



First description of the male of the millipede *Eurygyrus euboicus* (Verhoeff, 1901) (Diplopoda: Callipodida: Schizopetalidae)

PAVEL STOEV

National Museum of Natural History, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. 1, 1000 Sofia - Bulgaria. E-mail: stoev@nmnh.bas.bg

Abstract

The external morphology and the shape of gonopods of the male of *Eurygyrus euboicus* (Verhoeff, 1901), a species hitherto known only from a single female specimen collected more than 100 years ago on the Greek island of Euboea, is documented for the first time. The structure of gonopods indicates that the species belongs to the *E. xanthinus* group, and is closely related to the Anatolian species *E. ochraceus* C.L. Koch, 1847. The new find extends the species' range ca. 60 km in a northwestern direction.

Key words: taxonomy, identification key, *Eurygyrus xanthinus* group, Euboea, Greece

Introduction

The East Mediterranean millipede genus *Eurygyrus* C.L. Koch, 1847 is comparatively well studied from a taxonomic standpoint, although the phylogenetic relationships among the species have never been an object of comparative analysis. Four contemporary works, Hoffman & Lohmander (1964), Hoffman (1973), Glaubrecht & Spelda (1993), and Stoev & Enghoff (2004), provide information on the general morphology of the genus, and (re-)descriptions of older and new species. The last-mentioned paper presents the first, but still provisional, key for identification of the species in the genus. Currently *Eurygyrus* is known to comprise 18 species and two subspecies with uncertain status distributed from the region of Lake Van (Turkey), Palestine, Syria and Lebanon in the East to the Taygetos Mts in Greece in the West.

Yet, the morphology of some species of *Eurygyrus* remains poorly documented. This is the case for *E. euboicus*, a species hitherto known only from the female type specimen collected on the Greek island of Euboea (Verhoeff, 1901). Originally attributed to the genus *Lysiopetalum* Brandt, 1840, the species was transferred to *Eurygyrus* by Hoffman & Lohmander (1964). In connection with the description of a new species from Peloponnese, Stoev & Enghoff (2004) re-examined and briefly re-described the unique holotype specimen preserved in the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (ZMB) (see also Moritz & Fischer, 1974). Since males have never been found, this species and *Eurygyrus nicarius* (Verhoeff, 1901), another species also known only from a single female, were excluded from the identification key of Stoev & Enghoff (2004) based solely on the shape of gonopods.

In the present paper, the male of *E. euboicus* is described for the first time. The description is based on material collected on the island of Euboea by A. Riedel, and preserved in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (FMNH).