



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:5B915EB8-8E2A-4E32-AF91-3D4CD890989A

An annotated checklist of the South African Acanthodrilidae (Oligochaeta: Acanthodrilidae: Acanthodrilinae, Benhamiinae)

JADWIGA DANUTA PLISKO

University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Life Sciences, P.O. Box X01, Scottsville, 3209 South Africa. E-mail: jdplisko@saol.com

Table of contents

Abstract	4
Introduction	4
Historical data	5
Material and methods	6
Checklist of valid species: Taxonomy	7
Acanthodrilinae	7
Benhamiinae	47
Doubtful taxa	50
Acknowledgments	52
References	52
Appendix 1: List of valid names of South African Acanthodrilidae	56
Appendix 2: Junior synonyms in South African Acanthodrilidae	58

Abstract

A checklist of acanthodrilid species known from South African biotopes is here compiled from the literature and the unpublished KwaZulu-Natal Museum database of Oligochaeta (NMSAD). Most species belong to one of the two subfamilies, Acanthodrilinae, with a total of 107 valid indigenous species and 17 subspecies, belonging to five genera (*Chilota*, *Eodriloides*, *Microscolex*, *Parachilota*, *Udeina*). Furthermore, eight peregrine species of *Microscolex* (Acanthodrilinae) and *Dichogaster* (*Diplotheocodrilus*) (Benhamiinae) are included. One of them, *Dichogaster* (*Diplotheocodrilus*) *austeni* Beddard, 1901 may occur naturally in north-eastern South Africa. For all recorded species the type localities and known records in South Africa are given. Additional environmental data, when available, are included. The present location of most of the type material is indicated. Five species of *Udeina* are transferred to *Parachilota*: *Udeina avesicula*, *U. hogsbackensis*, *U. septentrionalis*, *U. pickfordia* Lungström, 1968 and *U. transvaalensis* Lungström, 1972, now *Parachilota avesiculus*, *P. hogsbackensis*, *P. septentrionalis*, *P. pickfordius*, and *P. transvaalensis*, respectively. Dubious or uncertain genera and species are listed separately, including *Hegesipyle* Kinberg, 1867 and its only species *H. hanno*, the first acanthodrilid species recorded from South Africa. Valid species names, synonyms and doubtful species are arranged alphabetically.

Key words: Earthworms, Clitellata, Annelida, megadriles, Africa, species list, taxonomy, biogeography

Introduction

In South Africa ca. 350 megadrile earthworm species are known accredited to seven families: Acanthodrilidae (Acanthodrilinae and Benhamiinae), Eudrilidae (Eudrilinae and Pareodrilinae), Glossoscolecidae, Lumbricidae, Megascolecidae, Microchaetidae and Ocnodrilidae. Of these all 142 species of Microchaetidae and 107 species of Acanthodrilinae are indigenous to South Africa. Two further acanthodrilinae species and 48 other known megadrile species with world-wide distribution (Benhamiinae, Eudrilidae, Glossoscolecidae, Lumbricidae and Ocnodrilidae) are introduced to this country. The family Acanthodrilidae is widely distributed in the southern