

**The first troglomorphic species of the millipede genus *Paracortina*
Wang & Zhang, 1993 from south Yunnan, China
(Diplopoda: Callipodida: Paracortinidae)**

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Abstract

Paracortina wangi sp. n. (Callipodida: Paracortinidae) is described from two caves in the karst plateau of Mengzi, Yunnan Province, China. It is the first troglomorphic species described in the family, the congeners being known exclusively from epigeal habitats. The status of the family is briefly discussed in the light of the new finding. Though originally assigned to Schizopetalidae, *Scotopetalum warreni* Shear, 2000, a paracortinid-like millipede from caves in Vietnam, might also prove to belong to the Paracortinidae. Some aspects of the phylogenetic analysis of Wang (1996) are criticised.

Key words: Diplopoda, Callipodida, Paracortinidae, *Paracortina wangi* sp. n., China

Introduction

The family Paracortinidae Wang & Zhang, 1993 (Callipodida: Schizopetalidea) was proposed simultaneously with the description of three new genera and seven new species (*Paracortina leptoclada*, *P. voluta*, *Relictus stimulus*, *R. thallinus*, *Altum viriosum*, *A. serratum* and *A. carinatum*) from the provinces Yunnan, Sichuan and Tibet of South China (Wang & Zhang, 1993). Three years later *Relictus* and *Altum* were downgraded to subgenera of *Paracortina* in the list of Chinese myriapods (Wang & Mauriès, 1996), though the authors did not explain the reasons for that. In the same year, Wang (1996) provided a manual analysis of the phylogenetic relationships of the genera and species in the family, retaining their full generic rank. The validity of Paracortinidae was recently criticised by Shear (2000) and Shear et al. (2003), although the change of its status (considered as a possible subfamily of Schizopetalidae) was not formalised.