

Redescription of *Iberoiulus cavernicola* Ceuca, 1967, and the relationships of the genus *Iberoiulus* Mauriès, 1985 (Diplopoda, Julida, Blaniulidae)

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Abstract

The Iberian blaniulid millipede *Iberoiulus cavernicola* Ceuca, 1967, is redescribed based on abundant new material collected in a cave in Villaluenga del Rosario, Cádiz, Spain. The relationships of the genus *Iberoiulus* Mauriès, 1985, to other blaniulid genera are discussed.

Key words: taxonomy, caves, Andalusia, Iberian Peninsula

Introduction

Iberoiulus was described as a new genus by Ceuca (1967) based on two species: the blind *I. cavernicola* Ceuca, 1967, from “Cueva del Peñón Grande, située au pied du Peñón Grande, termino municipal et partido de Grazalema, Province de Cadix, Espagne”, and the eyed *I. breuili* Ceuca, 1967, from “Grotte de Glenrocky, située près de la maison Glenrocky et tête des Ravennes europei, Gibraltar, Espagne”. A type species was, however, not designated, and the genus name therefore lacked status in nomenclature. Therefore, when Mauriès (1970) described *Iberoiulus sarensis* as a new species and assigned it to a new, validly proposed subgenus, *Euzkadiulus* Mauriès, 1970, *Euzkadiulus* became the valid genus name for the two species described by Ceuca and remained so until Mauriès (1985) validated *Iberoiulus* by designating *I. cavernicola* as type species of *Iberoiulus* and considered *Euzkadiulus* and *Iberoiulus* Mauriès, 1985, as separate genera.

Mauriès (1970, 1985) classified *Iberoiulus* and *Eukadiulus* together with *Acipes* Attems, 1937, in a tribe Acipini (recte: Acipedini). Enghoff (1983) agreed with this, mentioning simplification of the posterior gonopods as a potential synapomorphy for the three genera, and the apical lateral lobes of the anterior gonopods found in *Iberoiulus* and *Acipes* as a potential synapomorphy for this pair of genera. However, Enghoff (1983) also found a potential synapomorphy between *Acipes* and *Proteroiulus* Silvestri, 1897, viz., ventral horizontal flanges on the seventh male pleurotergite, a character that could not be scored in *Iberoiulus* and *Euzkadiulus* due to lack of adequate material. The type specimens of the two species of *Iberoiulus* were not available for study, and the unique holotype of *Euzkadiulus sarensis* lacked the seventh male pleurotergite.

The type specimens of *I. cavernicola* and *I. breuili* are still not available and may be lost. They are to be found neither in the Biospeologica collections in Cluj and Bukarest, nor in those of the Universitatea Babes Bolyai (O. Moldovan and E. Nitzu, pers. comm.).

It is therefore particularly welcome that a large collection of undoubtedly *Iberoiulus* specimens from caves in Andalusia, southern Iberian Peninsula, has now been made available by our colleague Pablo Barranco. In the present paper we describe this material, referring it to *I. cavernicola*, and we discuss the genus and its relationships.

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