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A checklist of the millipedes (Diplopoda) of Cambodia

NATDANAI LIKHITRAKARN¹, SERGEI I. GOLOVATCH^{2,4} & SOMSAK PANHA^{3,4}

¹Division of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agricultural Production, Maejo University, Chiang Mai 50290, Thailand

²Institute for Problems of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky pr. 33, Moscow 119071, Russia

³Animal Systematics Research Unit, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

⁴Corresponding authors. E-mail: Somsak Panha (somsak.pan@chula.ac.th); Sergei I. Golovatch (sgolovatch@yandex.ru)

Abstract

At the present, the millipede fauna of Cambodia comprises only 19 species from 15 genera, 12 families and 8 orders. These counts certainly represent but a minor fraction of the country's real diversity of Diplopoda even at the ordinal level, let alone at lower ones. Based on the available information from the adjacent parts of China, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and/or Laos, the orders Glomerida, Platydesmida, Polyzoniida, Callipodida and Chordeumatida must occur in Cambodia, maybe also Stemmiulida and Siphonocryptida, but none has been recorded there yet. This shows that a lot more collecting effort is required to amass a representative material of Diplopoda of Cambodia to make it available for study.

Key words: millipede, taxonomy, fauna, Cambodia

Introduction

The Kingdom of Cambodia is a tropical country found on the peninsula of mainland Southeast Asia adjacent to the gulf of Thailand with a land area of 181,035 km². Cambodia has a coastline of 435 km, and its land border of 2,438 km runs along Thailand to the west, Vietnam to the east and Laos PDR to the north (Map 1) (Kingdom of Cambodia 2010). The climate of Cambodia is tropical, dominated by the annual monsoon cycle, which is accompanied by alternating wet and dry seasons. Cambodia is considered a high forest cover country: in 2006, 59% of the country was covered by forest (Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment 2007). The country also contains the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, the Tonle Sap Lake. In terms of biodiversity, the country is believed to have over 130 mammal and more than 500 bird species. Some 300 species of freshwater fish have been identified, of which 215 are in the Tonle Sap (ADB 2000).

Studies on the millipedes (Diplopoda) in Cambodia started with descriptions or records of 13 species contained in the works of Attems (1938, 1953), based on the collections made by staff of the Paris Museum during the 1930s in French Indochina. These two papers still remain the cornerstones of our knowledge of the Myriapoda of Indochina east of Thailand (Likhitrakarn *et al.* 2014a). As a result, at the present the fauna contains at least 19 species, one of them (*Glomeridesmus* sp.) yet requiring a closer identification.

Cambodia remains the only country of Indochina which still lacks a comprehensive millipede checklist (cf. Enghoff *et al.* 2004; Enghoff 2005; Likhitrakarn *et al.* 2014a). To promote further studies on the Diplopoda of that country, as well as to pinpoint the existing shortcomings, the following catalogue is provided. A complete bibliography list relevant to the Cambodian fauna is also compiled.

Material and methods

The present paper is a conventional checklist restricted to the Diplopoda documented from Cambodia. In the catalogue sections, D stands for the original description, subsequent descriptive notes or appearance in a key, R for a subsequent record or records and M for a mere mention. A reference to the original description is always given,