



True identity of *Folkmanovius paralellus* Dobroruka (Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha: Geophilidae)

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Abstract

The mysterious monotypic genus *Folkmanovius* Dobroruka, 1957, and its type species, *Folkmanovius paralellus* Dobroruka, 1957, have never been found again since their description, although the patria of these taxa—the Czech Republic—is among the best studied regions regarding Chilopoda. Analysing the characters given in the original description, we found *Folkmanovius* to be in the closest relation with another European genus, *Clinopodes* C.L. Koch, 1847. Some characters could fit with the only Central European representative of this latter genus (*Clinopodes flavidus*) if, and only if, we consider that the description was based on juvenile specimens. Studying *C. flavidus* specimens of the first adolescens stadia, we found morphological changes during postembryonic development for several characters, documented first time for the genus. These results explain and elucidate all the tentative differential characters of Dobroruka's taxa and prove that *Folkmanovius* Dobroruka, 1957, is a junior subjective synonym of *Clinopodes* C.L. Koch, 1847, (**syn. nov.**), as well as *Folkmanovius paralellus* Dobroruka, 1957, being a junior subjective synonym of *Clinopodes flavidus* C.L. Koch, 1847 (**syn. nov.**).

Key words: centipede, *Clinopodes*, postembryonic development, synonymy, Central Europe

Introduction

The genus *Folkmanovius* was introduced by Luděk Jindřich Dobroruka in 1957 for a new species, *Folkmanovius paralellus*, described by him in the same paper (Dobroruka 1957). This species was described from 3 specimens collected at Boreč Hill, 6 km NW from Lovosice City in the Bohemian Central Uplands (České středohoří in Czech, Böhmisches Mittelgebirge in German respectively), Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic). The centipedes were collected in January and April, 1956, and the sex of the specimens is not mentioned. Type material was deposited in the private collection of the author of the species. After Dobroruka's death, one of us (IHT) received his collection from his wife, Jana Dobroruková. Type specimens of *Folkmanovius paralellus* were not present in this material, although type specimens of *Lithobius purkynei* Dobroruka, another species described in the same paper (under name *L. purkyněi*), were found (Tuf *et al.* 2008). There are no geophilomorph specimens from the type locality in this collection, neither labelled with any other species name, nor “unidentified”. For direct inquiry about any other centipedes (including Geophilomorpha) in Dobroruka's estate, IHT received a negative answer. It seems evident type material of *F. paralellus* no longer exists.

Moreover, *F. paralellus* does not appear to have been collected again. The species was mentioned in a monograph by Dobroruka (1961), in an Austrian check-list of centipedes (Würmli 1972), in all recent check-lists of Czech centipedes (Tajovský 2001a; Laška 2004; Tuf & Laška 2005; Tuf & Tufová 2008), and in a world catalogue (Bonato 2011), as well as in Dobroruka's obituary (Tuf 2005). The validity of the genus *Folkmanovius* (respectively species *F. paralellus*) is evaluated as uncertain in a revision of the genus *Diphyonyx* (Bonato *et al.* 2008) and in a list of European geophilomorph centipedes (Bonato & Minelli 2014; Bonato *et al.* 2014).

Due to the absence of type material or any further collection, we have re-evaluated the species based on