

Review of the Southeast Asian millipede genus *Pacidesmus* Golovatch, with the description of a new troglobitic species from southern China (Diplopoda: Polydesmida: Polydesmidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Pacidesmus* is briefly reviewed, with all of its three species keyed, including the clearly troglobitic *P. martensi* **sp. n.** from two caves in Guizhou Province, China.

Key words: Taxonomy, Guizhou Province

Introduction

The fauna of Polydesmidae of Southeast Asia is still poorly known, with only a few “macropolydesmid” species so far recorded in Indochina and adjacent territories, including southern China. These species largely represent the highly speciose genus *Epanerchodus* Attems, 1901, which is particularly typical of Japan, Korea and China, as well as the relatively small genus *Usbekodesmus* Lohmander, 1933, which is more common in Central Asia and the Himalayas. As both these genera are very closely related and sympatric at least in southern China, the discovery of intermediate species in future might lead to their synonymization (Geoffroy & Golovatch 2004).

In contrast, *Pacidesmus* Golovatch, 1991 has hitherto remained oligotypic, with the type species, *P. shelleyi* Golovatch, 1991, described from the mountains of northern Thailand (Golovatch 1991). A second possible congener, *P. sinensis* (Golovatch & Hoffman, 1989), from southern China, has been assigned to *Pacidesmus* with reservations. The latter species was first described as *Polydesmus hamatus* Loksa, 1960, from a cave near Lodjen (= Luodian, or Longping), Guizhou Province, China (Loksa 1960), but, being a junior homonym of *Polydesmus hamatus* Brandt, 1841, as well as of *Polydesmus hamatus* Verhoeff, 1897, it was subsequently renamed and reallocated, first as