



***Mecogonopodium carpathicum* n. sp. (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida: Attemsidae), a new troglophilic millipede from Slovakia**

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Abstract

Mecogonopodium carpathicum n. sp. (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida: Attemsidae) is proposed for a new millipede from the Čierna hora Mts., Western Carpathians, Slovakia. It represents the first record of the genus *Mecogonopodium* and the second of the family Attemsidae for the Carpathian region. Together with *Allorhiscosoma sphinx* (Verhoeff) they represent endemics for the Western Carpathians, Slovakia. *M. carpathicum* seems to be stenoendemic, as its occurrence in caves and stony debris is limited to a small area of two neighbouring valleys. Morphology of male and female characters and notes on its ecology are presented.

Key words: Diplopoda, Attemsidae, *Mecogonopodium carpathicum* n. sp., caves, Slovakia

Introduction

The European family Attemsidae includes mostly troglophilic millipede species, preferably inhabiting cave entrances and caves, small cavities in stony debris, and other subterranean habitats. Within this family, 17 genera and 26 species have already been described (Enghoff 2005). Except for one species, they are known from the Alps and neighbouring mountain regions of the northwestern part of the Balkan Peninsula (Strasser 1965; Hoffman 1980; Mršić 1987). Based on the females found outside these territories in the Kremnické vrchy Mts. (Western Carpathians, Central Slovakia) Verhoeff (1907) described the species *Rhiscosoma* (subgen. *Allorhiscosoma*) *sphinx* Verhoeff, 1907. Later, Gulička (1954) confirmed the validity of this taxon, and based on males he redescribed *Allorhiscosoma sphinx* (Verhoeff, 1907) and the subgenus *Allorhiscosoma* raised to full genus status. For a long time, this species was the only known attemsiid in the whole Carpathian region (Mock 2000a).

Recent studies on the cave and soil fauna in the Čierna hora Mts, the Western Carpathians, Slovakia, brought records of another representative of the family Attemsidae (Mock 2000b). Detailed analysis of the collected materials confirmed the presence of a new species of the genus *Mecogonopodium* Strasser, 1933, a taxon previously known only from Slovenia, in the northwestern part of the Balkan Peninsula. *Mecogonopodium carpathicum* n. sp., its description, distribution and notes on its ecology are presented in this paper.

Abbreviations

CIX macrochaetal index (distance between exterior and median macrochaetae divided by distance between interior and median macrochaetae)