



## A new genus for a colorful spirostreptid milliped from East Africa (Diplopoda: Spirostreptida: Spirostreptidae)

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### Abstract

The new generic taxon *Sagmatostreptus* is proposed for the type species *Spirostreptus strongylopygus* Attems, 1950, endemic to a limited area in northeastern Tanzania and adjacent Kenya.

**Key words:** Spirostreptidae, *Sagmatostreptus*, distribution, color pattern, Tanzania

### Introduction

The recent restriction (Hoffman *et al.*, 2001) of the generic name *Spirostreptus* Brandt, 1833, finally resolved the centuries-old perplexity about the status of that name, which was based on a type species (*S. sebae* Brandt) of unknown identity. In considering *Spirostreptus* to be the senior synonym of the taxon long known as *Triaenostreptus* Attems, 1914, those authors effectively deprived a large number of spirostreptids described or placed in *Spirostreptus* (but now obviously not congeneric with *S. sebae*) of a generic placement. A few of these orphaned species have been subsequently accommodated in either new or established genera but only a small start has been made in formalizing the actual taxonomic diversity manifested by this large family. While the opportunistic proposal of new genera for obviously distinct species is surely not the optimal approach to alleviating the problem, a long time may pass before a modern revision of the entire family is accomplished, and some justification may be sought for individual cases of some specific and immediate attention.

We take this opportunity to propose a new monotypic genus for a large and not uncommon spirostreptid described from the Usambara Mountains, Tanzania, which in both genitalic and peripheral characters cannot be referred to *Spirostreptus* in its modern sense, nor to any other established genus. This action is taken to provide a nomenclatorial frame of reference for inclusion of the species in studies being conducted by the second author on the occurrence of heteronomous color patterns among unrelated diplopods.

Description of the gonopod structure follows the terminology suggested by Hoffman (2008).

### Taxonomy

#### Family Spirostreptidae

#### *Sagmatostreptus*, new genus

Type species: *Spirostreptus strongylopygus* Attems, 1950.

**Name.** A neologism composed of the Greek elements *sagmos* (saddle) + *-streptus*, a combining suffix derived from the generic name *Spirostreptus*, in allusion to the saddle-like dorsal markings of the type species.