



A synopsis of catalogs and checklists of harvestmen (Arachnida, Opiliones)

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Abstract

An annotated synopsis is presented of the publications which offer species checklists and catalogs of the arachnid order Opiliones. Catalogs and checklists are included if they cover both (1) a suprafamilial group and (2) a country, continental or zoogeographical region. Standardized information is given on the number of species treated and the taxonomic and geographic scope. A total of 100 catalog works (7 of which are online only) are listed. They record from 4 to 6125 species, and they are classified into 3 categories: (1) manuals, which contain diagnoses and keys, (2) catalogs, which contain nomenclatural acts and synonymic literature headings and (3) checklists, which contain only a species list. Finally, a synopsis of key systematic works for each area in each zoogeographical region is given, and a species count is provided for all zoogeographical regions of the world.

Key words: Harvestmen, Europe, North America, South America, Asia, Africa

Introduction

Summarizing what is known of a given taxon for a given area, gathered from scattered data in the literature, seems to be the best way to enhance respective knowledge. Regional lists of species are very common and make a substantial part of the taxonomic literature, and although there are numerous lists dealing with Opiliones or its subgroups, there is to date no publication that gives an overview of them.

The last monographic worldwide treatment of the species of Opiliones was by Roewer (1923), and there is also a worldwide species checklist of Opiliones on the web (Hallan 2005). Likewise, many local efforts exist in the literature dealing with major or minor subsections of the order on a continental or worldwide scale or listing all Opiliones of a country. The present work aims to summarize all these data into synoptic tables, and an annotated list is provided of all lists dealing with Opiliones or each of the 4 suborders from a given region, at least at the country level.

Methods

The criteria for a paper to be included in the present compilation are that it deals with (1) a suprafamilial or larger group and (2) a country, continent or zoogeographical region. Inclusion here requires both. For example, a review of the Mitobatinae would not appear here because it fails to comply with 1; a list of the Opiliones of Yellowstone National Park or Eupnoi of South Dakota fails to comply with 2. Laniatores of Malaysia would satisfy 1 and 2. There are some works which lie in a gray zone: (a) both books by González-Sponga (1987 and 1992) fail condition 1 but satisfy condition 2, because together they treat only some selected families, excluding, for example, Stygnidae and Manaosbiidae, in Venezuela; (b) Staręga's (1984) catalog of Afrotropical Phalangiidae, because this family constitutes the bulk (but not all) of Eupnoi in this region (leaving aside the Caddidae and Neopilionidae, which would appear later in Staręga 1992); (c) Roewer's work on Gagrellinae (1953), which is similar to Staręga (1984), but for the Neotropics; (d) Benavides & Giribet (2007), because although it nominally treats only one family of Cyphophthalmi, this is virtually the only family that occurs in South America (excepted for two species of Pettali-