



Article

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Revision of the rare centipede genus *Sterropristes* Attems, 1934, with description of a new species from Thailand (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Scolopendridae)

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Abstract

The genus *Sterropristes* Attems, 1934, currently classified in the scolopendrid subfamily Otostigminae and tribe Sterropristini, is revised. The monotypic genus *Malaccolabis* Verhoeff, 1937, is synonymized with *Sterropristes*. *Sterropristes sarasinorum* Attems, 1934 from Tomohon, Celebes, Indonesia (type species of *Sterropristes*) and *S. metallicus* (Verhoeff, 1937) from Penang Hill, Penang, Malaysia (type species of *Malaccolabis*) are redescribed based on their type material, together with newly collected topotypes of *S. metallicus*. *Sterropristes violaceus* Muadsub and Panha **n. sp.**, found under leaves on islands in the Andaman Sea, south-western Thailand, is described.

Key words: taxonomy, systematics, Malaysia, morphology, Myriapoda

Introduction

The centipede order Scolopendromorpha contains the largest of all centipedes, and the family Scolopendridae in particular is better known biologically and taxonomically than most other centipede groups. Recent taxonomic and phylogenetic treatments of Scolopendromorpha include Schileyko and Pavlinov (1997); Shelley (1997, 2002); Lewis (2006, 2010a, b); Edgecombe and Koch (2008, 2009); Koch *et al.* (2009); Vahtera *et al.* (2012a, b). The Scolopendridae contain more than 400 nominal species, classified into either two or three subfamilies. In one scheme, the subfamilies Scolopendrinae and Otostigminae (the latter subdivided into tribes Otostigmini, Arrhabdotini and Sterropristini) are diagnosed largely based on spiracle morphology (Edgecombe and Bonato, 2011). An alternative scheme separates a subfamily Sterropristinae from Otostigminae based on the presence or absence, respectively, of a spiracle on trunk segment 7 (Schileyko, 1992, 2002; Schileyko and Pavlinov, 1997). Scolopendrinae and Otostigmini have been often subjected to study in many aspects, whereas the Sterropristini is known from just two specimens and is rarely mentioned in the literature (Lewis, 1981a).

The centipede fauna of Indochina has received little attention, and almost all currently recognized taxa were described before the 1960s (e.g. Attems 1930, 1934, 1953; Verhoeff, 1937). A few modern studies have concerned scolopendromorphs from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (Schileyko, 1992, 1995, 2007), whereas from Thailand only the lithobiomorphs have been treated recently (Eason, 1981, 1986, 1989). Altogether, less than 20 nominal species of centipedes have been recorded from Thailand (including recent records by Bonato *et al.* 2011, 2012; Vahtera *et al.* 2012a), and only three of these are scolopendromorphs.