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East African odontopygid millipedes 2: A new, geographically disjunct species of *Chaleponcus* (Attems 1914) from the Pare Mts., Tanzania (Diplopoda, Spirostreptida, Odontopygidae)

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Abstract

Chaleponcus parensis **n. sp.**,, found in the North Pare Mountains, Tanzania, is described. The find is remarkable due to its geographically disjunct location, being at least 1500 km as the crow flies to the nearest valid record in Zimbabwe of a Chaleponcus.

Introduction

Chaleponcus Attems, 1914, is a mainly South African genus with a great majority of records from the Rep. of South Africa and Namibia, and with its north-eastern most known distribution in Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. The discovery of a new species of *Chaleponcus* in Tanzania extends the generic range far more toward the northeast than previously seen. However, it is not the only record of a geographically disjunct *Chaleponcus* species. Attems (1914) described the species *C. fissicirratus* from Congo; however, it does not seem to have been recorded since. Kraus (1958) also described a new species, *Chaleponcus dabagaensis*, from the West Usambara Mts. in Tanzania, but later, in his work of 1960, he noted it as a "species *incertae sedis*" noticing that it might be related to another genus, *Spinotarsus* Attems, 1909. Thus it is at least 1500 km as the crow flies from Pare Mts. to Zimbabwe, which so far is the closest valid record of *Chaleponcus*, and more than 2000 km as the crow flies to the locality of *C. mozambiquensis* Kraus, 1966, the species most resembling *C. parensis*, according to the key in Kraus 1966. Next to nothing is known of the millipede fauna of the Pare Mts., making the find of a new *Chaleponcus* species all the more interesting.

The present paper is the second in a series of contributions to the knowledge of the family Odontopygidae in East Africa, especially Tanzania.

The description of the gonopod structure follows the terminology suggested in the first paper of the series by Frederiksen and Enghoff (2012).

Material and methods

All studied specimens belong to the collection of the Natural History Museum of Denmark (Zoological Museum), University of Copenhagen (ZMUC) and are stored in 70% ethanol. Photographs were made with a Leica digital camera M205A mounted on a Leica DFC 420 stereomicroscope. Images were processed with a Leica Application Suite program and final stacking made with Helicon Focus 4.60.2 Pro software. Specimens for scanning electron microscopy were transferred to 96% ethanol and then to acetone, air-dried, mounted on aluminium stubs, coated with platinum/palladium and studied in a JEOL JSM-6335F scanning electron microscope.

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