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An updated checklist of the Centipedes (Myriapoda Chilopoda) of Cameroon, with new distribution records

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ABSTRACT A checklist of Centipedes (Chilopoda) for Cameroon with updated nomenclature of old records and recent additional records from Cameroon's fauna is provided. The provisional list reveals nine endemic species (39%), four new distribution records, and includes four species that were previously omitted, thereby leading to a modest extension of the list from 19 to 23 species. Several unidentified or doubtful species no longer recognized from the African continent are excluded from the list.

KEY WORDS Centipedes; checklist; new record; Cameroon.

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INTRODUCTION

Centipedes (Chilopoda) encompass more than 3300 species, divided into five extant orders, and are known to be from all continents, except Antarctica (Bonato et al., 2016). They are found to occur on the litter, under decaying woods, inside termite mounds as well as anthropogenic areas. Centipedes are important predators in most soil communities throughout the world. Their body is elongated, in a worm-like shape, and often flattened. The first pair of trunk appendages are developed as stinging fangs (also called forcipules), which are used to catch prey and for defence (Bonato & Minelli, 2004; Guizze et al., 2016). Centipedes mainly prey on other arthropods, but they are also able to capture earthworms and small vertebrates (Lewis, 1981; Edgecombe & Giribet, 2007; Noronha et al., 2015)

The Centipede fauna of Cameroon, one of the largest countries in central Africa, is still little-known, while the only monograph devoted to the subject (Porat, 1894) is hopelessly outdated. Despite being common, conspicuous, diverse, often easy-to-collect, Chilopoda have received little attention in all areas of zoological research in this country. Many available reports from Cameroon Myriapoda fauna have focused on systematic, taxonomy and ecology of millipedes. This neglect has mainly been due to the lack of experts in this new research domain in Cameroon.

The present checklist provides a review of the centipedes from old reports and recent field data with updated taxonomic names and new distribution records. This checklist is to be regarded as an invitation to further studies on the still poorly-known arthropod class Chilopoda.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The classification for Chilopoda follows Minelli (2011). All scientific names were updated according to the recent centipede taxonomic website: http://www.chilobase.biologia.unipd.it (Bonato et al., 2016). Families within order, genera within

families, and species within genera are listed alphabetically. In the catalogue, the valid name of genus and species are given in bold and original descriptions are listed. Generic synonymy and/or type species provenances is listed under the valid name. In species synonymy, only references to the fauna of Cameroon were cited after original description. The cited references were followed by codification distinguishing publications with (1) taxonomic description and (2) merely listing or mention. Records from Cameroon are given with references. New records from Cameroon are given with number of specimens (male and/or female), place and georeference coordinates, date, and collector's name. The known general distribution of the species is given. Notes in terms of taxonomic status or misidentifications are given (if applicable).

RESULTS

CHECKLIST

Classis CHILOPODA Latreille, 1817
Ordo LITHOBIOMORPHA Pocock, 1910
Familia HENICOPIDAE Pocock, 1901
Genus *Lamyctes* Meinert, 1868

TYPE-SPECIES. *Lamyctes fulvicornis* Meinert, 1868 - by original designation.

SYNONYMS. *Lamyctinus* Silvestri, 1909; *Remylamcystes* Attems, 1951

Lamyctes* (*Metalamyctes*) *africanus (Porat, 1871)
Henicops africana Porat, 1871: 1140 (1); 1893: 5 (2); 1894: 10 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bonge (Porat, 1871).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon, Madagascar, Senegal, Hawalian and Juan Fernandez islands (Pocock, 1888; Attems, 1903; Zapparoli & Shelley, 2000).

Ordo SCOLOPENDROMORPHA Pocock, 1910
Familia CRYPTOPIDAE Kohlrausch, 1881
Genus *Cryptops* Leach, 1814

TYPE-SPECIES. *Scolopendra hortensis* Donovan, 1810 - by monotypy.

Cryptops (Cryptops) hortensis (Donovan, 1810)
Cryptops hortensis Donovan, 1810: 23(1); Porat, 1894: 16 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bonge (Porat, 1894).

NEW RECORDS. 2 males, Campo Ma'an National Park, 2°10'N, 9°50'E , 30.IX. 2015, coll. Mbenoun & Nzoko; 1 female, same location, 2°10'N, 9°50'E, 31.VIII. 2015, coll. Mbenoun & Nzoko; 1 female, Kala Mount, 3°50'N, 11°20'E, ca 1125 m a.s.l., 29.I.2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon (see Mbenoun et al., 2017: Mbenoun & Makon, 2019).

DISTRIBUTION. Widespread in temperate and tropical regions throughout the world, often introduced (Sseliwanoff, 1884; Porat, 1894; Attems, 1903; Verhoeff, 1943; Chamberlin, 1944; Goux, 1950; Kock, 1863).

NOTE. This species occurs mostly in temperate climate and unlikely to survive in environmental conditions different from those in its native range. Its presence in Africa required critical evaluation. Introduced specimens may occur in city gardens and similar habitats to those found in its native range.

Cryptops (Trigonocryptops) gigas Kraepelin, 1903
Cryptops (Trigonocryptops) gigas Kraepelin, 1903: 40 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Cameroon, without further details (Kraepelin, 1903).

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Cameroon.

Familia SCOLOPOCRYPTOPIDAE Pocock, 1896
Genus *Scolopocryptops* Newport, 1844

TYPE-SPECIE. *Scolopocryptops melanostoma* Newport, 1845.

SYNONYMS. *Anethops* Chamberlin, 1902; *Dinocryptops* Crabill, 1953; *Otocryptops* Haase, 1887.

Scolopocryptops ferrugineus (Linnaeus, 1767)
Scolopocryptops ferrugineus Linnaeus, 1767: 1063 (1).

Otocryptops ferruginea Porat, 1893: 12 (2); 1894: 16 (2).

Records from Cameroon. Bonge (Porat, 1893).

New records. 1 male, Kala Mount, 3°50'N, 11°20'E, ca 1125 m a.s.l., 29.IX.2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon (Mbenoun & Makon, 2019).

Distribution. West Africa, Central America, Caribbean (Linnaeus, 1797; Gervais, 1847; Marshall, 1878; Pocock, 1888; Humbert & Saussure, 1869).

Note. The synonymy between *Otocryptops ferruginea* and *Scolocryptops ferrugineus* is also given by many authors, but both type materials require further revision.

Familia SCOLOPENDRIDAE Newport, 1844
Genus *Alipes* Imhoff, 1854

Type-species. *Alipes multicostis* Imhoff, 1854, by monotypy.

Synonyms. *Eucorybas* Gerstaecker, 1854.

Alipes multicostis Imhoff, 1854
Alipes multicostis Imhoff, 1854: 120 (1); Porat, 1894: 15 (2).

Records from Cameroon. Kitta, Bonge (Porat, 1894).

Distribution. Cameroon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana (Porat, 1894; Imhoff, 1853; Demange, 1963).

Genus *Ethmostigmus* Pocock, 1898

Type species. *Scolopendra trigonepodus* Leach, 1816 - by subsequent designation.

Synonyms. *Dacetum*, Kock, 1847; *Heterostoma* Newport, 1844.

Ethmostigmus trigonepodus (Leach, 1817)
Ethmostigmus trigonepodus Leach, 1817: 36 (1).
Heterostoma trigonopodum Porat, 1894: 15 (2).

Records from Cameroon. Bibundi (Porat, 1894).

Distribution. Cameroon, Algeria, Tanzania, Angola, Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Sudan, South Africa; Tanzania (Koch, 1847; Porat, 1894; Verhoeff, 1941).

Genus *Scolopendra* Linnaeus, 1758

Type species. *Scolopendra morsitans* Linnaeus, 1758.

Synonyms. *Scolopendra* (*Calcaria*) Porat, 1876; *Rhombocephalus* Newport, 1844; *Trachycormocephalus* Kraepelin, 1903; *Rhadinoscytalis* Attems, 1926; *Kanparka* Waldock & Edgecombe, 2012.

Scolopendra morsitans Linnaeus, 1758
Scolopendra morsitans Linnaeus, 1758: 638 (1).
Scolopendra morsitans Porat, 1894: 11 (2).

Records from Cameroon. Kitta, Ekundu, Bibundi (Porat, 1894).

New records. 1 male, Mahonda, 4°15'N; 10°48'E, 14.XI.2013, coll. Mbenoun.

Distribution. This well-known species is found in almost all tropical and subtropical countries (Brandt, 1841; Newport, 1844; Porat, 1894; Khanna, 1977).

Note. Frequenty introduced.

Scolopendra valida Lucas, 1840
Scolopendra valida Lucas, 1840: 49 (1).

Records from Cameroon. Cameroon, without further details (Lucas, 1840).

Distribution. Cameroon, Sudan, Somalia, Canary Islands, Iran, India, Kuwait (Lucas, 1840, Lewis, 2010; Reeves, 2016).

Note. This species has been previously omitted in Porat's checklist (1894).

Genus *Otostigmus* Porat, 1876

Type species. *Otostigmus carinatus* Porat, 1876 - by subsequent designation

Synonym. *Branchiotrema* Kohlrausch, 1878

Otostigmus (Otostigigmus) inermipes Porat, 1893
Otostigmus inermipes Porat, 1893 :11(1); 1894 :14 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bibundi, Mapanja, Bonge (Porat, 1893).

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Cameroon.

Otostigmus (Parotostigmus) cuneiventris Porat, 1893
Otostigmus cuneiventris Porat, 1893: 10 (1) ; 1894: 14 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bibundi, Mapanja, Bonge (Porat, 1893).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon, Tanzania (Porat, 1893; Attems, 1930).

Ordo GEOPHILOMORPHA Pocock, 1895
Familia GEOPHILIDAE Leach, 1815
Genus RIBAUTIA Brölemann, 1909

TYPE SPECIES. *Ribautia bouvieri* Brölemann, 1909 - by monotypy.

SYNONYMS. *Schizoribautia* Brölemann, 1912; *Polygonarea* (*Nearia*) Chamberlin, 1955.

Ribautia unguiculata (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus unguiculatus Porat, 1894: 23 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Patras (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon, Benin, Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo (Porat, 1894; Cook, 1896; Brolemann, 1926).

Genus *Schizotaenia* Cook, 1896

TYPE SPECIES. *Schizotaenia prognatha* Cook, 1896 - by subsequent designation.

Schizotaenia aequalis (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus aequalis Porat, 1894: 23 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Cameroon, without further details (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Cameroon.

Schizotaenia porosa (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus porosus Porat, 1894: 22 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Ekundu; Bonge (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Cameroon.

Schizotaenia quadrisulcata (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus quadrisulcatus Porat, 1894: 23 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bonge (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Cameroon.

Genus *Tretechthus* Cook, 1896

TYPESPECIES. *Geophilus uliginosus* Porat, 1894 - by monotypy.

Tretechthus uliginosus (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus uliginosus Porat, 1894: 24 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Cameroon, without further details (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Only know from Cameroon.

Familia MECISTOCEPHALIDAE Bollman, 1893
Genus *Mecistocephalus* Newport, 1843

TYPE SPECIES. *Mecistocephalus punctifrons* Newport, 1843 - by subsequent designation.

SYNONYMS. *Lamnonyx* Cook, 1896; *Megethmus* Cook, 1896; *Pauroptyx* Chamberlin, 1920; *Brachyptyx* Chamberlin, 1920; *Dasyptyx* Chamberlin, 1920; *Ectoptyx* Chamberlin, 1920; *Formosocephalus* Verhoeff, 1937; *Fusichila* Chamberlin, 1953.

Mecistocephalus punctifrons Newport, 1843
Mecistocephalus punctifrons Newport, 1843: 179 (1); Porat, 1894: 20 (2).

NEW RECORDS. 1 male , Kala Mount, 3°50'N, 11°20'E , ca 1125 m a.s.l., 06.I. 2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon; 1 female, same locality, ca 820 m a.s.l, 24.II.2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon; 1 male, same locality, ca 1125m a.s.l, 19.IV.2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon; 1 female, same locality, 25.XI.2016, coll. Mbenoun & Makon; 1 male, same locality, 08.IV.2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon; 2 males, same locality, 29.IV.2017, coll. Makon; 2 females, same locality, 06.I.2017, coll. Mbenoun & Makon (see Mbenoun et al., 2017: Mbenoun & Makon, 2019).

DISTRIBUTION. India (Bonato & Minelli, 2004).

NOTES. According to Bonato & Minelli (2004), *M. punctifrons* is exclusive in India and records from Cameroon have been most probably based on misidentifications. Therefore, critical evaluation is needed. Most probably the populations inhabiting Africa are likely to be *M. togensis.*

Mecistocephalus togensis (Cook, 1896)
Lamnonyx togensis Cook, 1896: 39 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Ototomo (Edgecombe et al., 2010).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon, Togo (Cook, 1896; Edgecombe et al., 2010).

NOTES. The synonymy with *Mecistocephalus insularis*, *M. guildingii*, *M. leonensis* has been proposed by some authors.

Familia ORYIDAE Cook, 1896
Genus *Orphnaeus* Meinert, 1870

TYPE SPECIES. *Orphnaeus lividus* Meinert, 1870 - by subsequent designation.

SYNONYMS. *Andenophilus* Verhoeff, 1941; *Azygethus* Chamberlin, 1920.

Orphnaeus brasilianus (Humbert et Saussure, 1870)
Orphnaeus lineatus Newport, 1845: 437(1); Porat, 1894: 19 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Cameroon, without further details (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon, Madagascar, Hunduras, Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil), Africa (Newport, 1844; Porat, 1894; Attems, 1903; Chamberlin, 1914).

NOTE. The old record *O. lineatus* by Porat (1894) is probably *O. brasilianus*. Therefore, critical evaluation is needed.

Orphnaeus brevilabiatus (Newport, 1845)
Geophilus brevilabiatus Newport, 1845: 436 (1).
Orphnaeus brevilabiatus Porat, 1894: 19 (2); 1893: 14 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Mapanja (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. This species is widely distributed in the tropical and subtropical parts of both Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

Genus *Pentorya* Cook, 1896

TYPE SPECIES. *Pentorya afra* Cook, 1896 - by original designation

Pentorya afra Cook, 1896
Pentorya afra Cook, 1896: 34 (1).
Orphnaeus (*Aspidopleres*) *fusatus* Porat 1894: 18 (2).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Ekundu (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon.

Familia SCHENDYLIDAE Cook, 1896
Genus *Ballophilus* Cook, 1896

TYPE SPECIES. *Ballophilus clavicornis* Cook, 1896 - by subsequent designation.

Ballophilus maculosus (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus maculosus Porat, 1894: 25 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bonge (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Only known from Cameroon.

Genus *Ctenophilus* Cook, 1896

TYPE-SPECIES. *Ctenophilus africanus* Cook, 1896 - by subsequent designation.

SYNONYM. *Pleuroschendyla* Brölemann et Ribaut, 1911.

Ctenophilus edentulus (Porat, 1894)
Geophilus edentulus Porat, 1894: 24 (1).

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Bonge (Porat, 1894).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon.

Ordo SCUTIGEROMORPHA Pocock, 1895
Familia PSELLIODIDAE Chamberlin, 1955
Genus *Sphendononema* Verhoeff, 1904

TYPE SPECIES. *Sphendononema camerunense* Verhoeff, 1904 - by original designation.

SYNONYMS. *Pselliophora* Verhoeff, 1904; *Pselliodes* Chamberlin, 1921; *Brasilophora* Bücherl, 1939; *Lassothereua* Verhoeff, 1944.

Sphendononema rugosa (Newport, 1844)
Sphendononema rugosa Newport, 1844: 95 (1)

RECORDS FROM CAMEROON. Cameroon, without further details (Verhoeff, 1904, 1905).

DISTRIBUTION. Cameroon, Angola, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya (Verhoff, 1904, 1905).

CONCLUSIONS

The chilopod fauna of Cameroon encompasses 23 species and subspecies, nine families, and four orders including Lithobimorpha (one species), Scutigeromorpha (one species), Scolopendromorpha (9 species) and Geophilomorpha (12 species) (Table 1). Nine species (39%) are so far only known from Cameroon: *Pentorya afra* Cook, 1896; *Ctenophilus edentulus* (Porat, 1894); *Tretechthus uliginosus* (Porat, 1894); *Schizotaenia quadrisulcatus* (Porat,

Order	Family	Species
LITHOBIOMORPHA	HENICOPIDAE	*Lamyctes (Metalamyctes) africanus* (Porat, 1871)
SCUTIGEROMORPHA	PSELLIODIDAE	*Sphendononema rugosa* (Newport,1844)
SCOLOPENDROMORPHA	CRYPTOPIDAE	*Cryptops (Cryptops) hortensis* (Donovan, 1810) ≠
		Cryptops (Trigonocryptops) gigas Kraepelin, 1903*
	SCOLOPOCRYPTOPIDAE	*Scolopocryptops ferrugineus* (Linnaeus, 1767) ≠
	SCOLOPENDRIDAE	*Alipes multicostis* Imhoff, 1854
		Ethmostigmus trigonepodus (Leach, 1817)
		Otostigmus (Otostigmus) cuneiventris Porat, 1893
		Otostigmus (Parotostigmus) inermipes Porat, 1893*
		Scolopendra morsitans Linnaeus, 1758≠
		Scolopendra valida Lucas, 1840
GEOPHILOMORPHA	SCHENDYLIDAE	*Ballophilus maculosus* (Porat, 1894) *
		Ctenophilus edentulus (Porat, 1894) *
	GEOPHILIDAE	*Ribautia unguicula* (Porat, 1894)
		Schizotaenia aequalis (Porat, 1894) *
		Schizotaenia porosa (Porat, 1894) *
		Schizotaenia quadrisulcatus (Porat, 1894) *
		Tretechthus uliginosus (Porat, 1894) *
	MECISTOCEPHALIDAE	*Mecistocephalus punctifrons* Newport, 1843≠
		Mecistocephalus togensis (Cook, 1896)
	ORYIDAE	*Orphnaeus brasilianus* (Humbert et Saussure, 1870)
		Orphnaeus brevilabiatus (Newport, 1845)
		Pentorya afra Cook, 1896 *

Table 1. Overview of the centipede fauna of Cameroon. Classification after Minelli et al. (2012). * indicates endemic species; ≠ indicates new records.

1894); *Schizotaenia porosa* (Porat, 1894); *Schizotaenia aequalis* (Porat, 1894); *Ballophilus maculosus* (Porat, 1894); *Otostigmus* (*Parotostigmus*) *inermipes* Porat, 1893; and *Cryptops* (*Trigonocryptops*) *gigas* Kraepelin, 1903. Six species (26%) are known from the surrounding African countries: *Ribautia unguicula* (Porat, 1894); *Otostigmus* (*Otostigmus*) *cuneiventris* Porat, 1893; *Ethmostigmus trigonepodus* (Leach, 1817); *Alipes multicostis* Imhoff, 1854; *Mecistocephalus togensis* (Cook, 1896), and *Sphendononema rugosa* (Newport, 1844).

The overall number of centipede species (23) recorded from the historical reports and recent field data in Cameroon is greater than the number recorded to the fauna of Gabon (15 species) (Demange, 1968). Although few diversity studies have been conducted, centipedes seem to be more diverse and abundant in Cameroon (Mbenoun & Makon, 2019). Due to the lack of relevant literature and expertise of this taxonomic group, many unidentified or doubtful species have been excluded from the current list. The identification of these morphospecies may probably increase the number of centipedes present in the country. Most of data published in this catalogue were collected mainly by Porat (1894) for decades with a few under-staffed expeditions in the south-western region of Cameroon. This region is located in southern Cameroon rainforest and characterized by lowland evergreen and montane forests. A great majority of species found by Porat (1894) are likely to be endemic in Cameroon. The old data recorded from literature and those described by Porat therefore need careful revision. Accordingly, surveys should be performed in the other geographic regions within southern Cameroon rainforest so as to document their diversity and thus contribute to the knowledge of this poorly known Myriapoda class in the country.

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