

An annotated checklist of centipedes (Myriapoda: Chilopoda) of Sri LankaDuminda S.B. Dissanayake^{1, 2*}, Lasanthika D. Thewarage² & S. Wickramasinghe³¹Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka²54/1A, Sobitha Vidyalaya Mawatha, Molpe, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka³Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

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ABSTRACT

The centipede fauna of Sri Lanka is reviewed from the literature. A total of 24 species in 11 genera, six families in four orders, Geophilomorpha, Lithobiomorpha Scolopendromorpha and Scutigleromorpha, has been recorded from Sri Lanka. The type specimens of 8 species of centipedes were originally collected in Sri Lanka. These include (with synonyms): *Australobius sculpturatus*, *Cormocephalus inermipes*, *Scolopendra crassa*, *Otostigmus ceylonicus*, *Rhysida ceylonica*, *Mecistocephalus heteropus*, *Mecistocephalus subinsularis* and *Thereuopodina tenuicornis*. This highlights the need for more extensive research on centipedes, from taxonomy, evolutionary relationships, distribution and conservation status.

KEYWORDS

Chilopoda, Checklist, Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

Introduction

In terms of biodiversity, Sri Lanka is an important tropical island, now considered as a single biodiversity hotspot together with the Western Ghats. The biota of Sri Lanka and the Western Ghats form a distinct biogeographic unit, distinct from other areas. (Myers *et al.*, 2000). Sri Lanka has an area of approximately 65610 km² and its biodiversity reflects both geographic and climatic zones (Ashton *et al.*, 1997). Most evidence about ancient biological links of relic fauna in Sri Lanka reflects its position as at the center of Gondwana, which abutted areas of Madagascar, Africa, India, Indochina and other landmasses (Dissanayake and Chandrajith, 1999). In the last 500,000 years there have been recurrent episodes of sea-level regressions and transgressions Sri Lanka from mainland India. These sporadic connect allowed faunal exchanges (Rohling *et al.*, 1998; Bossuyt *et al.*, 2004). Although most similar to the Western Ghats, the Sri Lankan zoological biota differs significantly from South Indian. We still have much to learn about the biota of Sri Lanka, including a complete documentation of its biodiversity.

During the decades of there have been many taxonomic studies, which have added to our knowledge of the biota of Sri Lanka. Much of the focus has been on vertebrates, leaving our knowledge of invertebrates much less complete. We now know that there are endemic species of invertebrates including butterflies, freshwater crabs, insects, spiders and land snails (The National Red List of Sri Lanka, 2012) and millipedes (Zoysa *et al.*, 2016). Centipedes are examples of poorly known animals in Sri Lanka (Dissanayake & Wickramasinghe, 2012). The last taxonomic studies of Sri Lankan centipedes were conducted by foreign researchers such as Newport (1845), Humbert (1865), Haase (1887), Pocock (1892), Verhoeff (1905) and Silvestri (1903). In 1973, E. H. Eason reviewed the collection of R. I. Pocock from 1890 to 1901 in The

Natural History Museum. The purpose of this study is to present a checklist of centipede fauna of Sri Lanka. We hope that this will set the stage for further study of these animals in Sri Lanka.

Methods

This checklist was generated using previously published catalogues to establish a base list for Sri Lanka and was modified with new taxa and synonymies following an exhaustive search from published data from 1844 to 2016. The classification for Chilopoda follows Minelli *et al.*, (2006 onward) and Minelli (2011). Families, genera within families and species within genera are listed alphabetically. The classification and identification of centipedes of Sri Lanka follow: Newport (1844), Templeton (1846), Haase (1887), Pocock (1892), Silvestri (1919), Verhoeff (1925), Attems (1930, 1947), Koch (1983, 1985) Eason (1990), Shelley (2000), Edgecombe & Giribet (2004, 2009), Lewis (2010), Edgecombe (2011), Bonato *et al.*, (2011), Schileyko & Stagl (2004) and Dissanayake and Wickramasinha (2012). We did not re-examine type specimens.

Systematic account**ORDER: GEOPHILOMORPHA POCOCK, 1895****Family: Mecistocephalidae Bollman, 1893****Genus: Mecistocephalus Newport, 1843*****Mecistocephalus heteropus* (Humbert, 1865)****Type Locality:** Sri Lanka (Ceylon): Pundel-Oya**Remarks:** Only known from Sri Lanka. The Last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Silvestri in 1919.***Mecistocephalus subinsularis* (Silvestri, 1919)****Type Locality:** Sri Lanka: Madatugama

Remarks: Also known from Sumatra, Vietnam and Myanmar. The Last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Bonato & Minelli in 2004.

Family: Oryziidae Cook, 1896

Genus: *Orphnaeus* Mainert, 1870

Orphnaeus brevilabiatus (Newport, 1845)

Orphnaeus bilineatus Peters, 1855

Orphnaeus lividus Meinert, 1870

Orphnaeus phosphoreus Linnaeus, 1758

Orphnaeus xanti Tömösváry, 1885

Type Locality: Mouth of Great Tenasserim River (Burma)

Remarks: Taiwan, Madagascar and Cameroon. The last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Attems C in 1947.

ORDER: LITHOBIOMORPHA POCOCK, 1895

Family: Lithobiidae Pocock, 1895

Genus: *Australobius* Chamberlin, 1920

Australobius palnis (Eason, 1973)

Type Locality: India

Remarks: Also known from India. Eason (1990), On the true identity of *Geophilus insculptus* Attems, 1895.

Australobius sculpturatus (Pocock, 1901)

Australobius ceylanicus Attems, 1909

Type Locality: Sri Lanka: Gall

Remarks: Also known from Taiwan, Madagascar and Cameroon. The type specimens and identity of the species described in genus *Lithobius* Eason (1973).

ORDER: SCOLOPENDROMORPHA POCOCK, 1895

Family: Scolopendridae Newport, 1844

Genus: *Ethmostigmus* Newport, 1845

Ethmostigmus rubripes (Brandt, 1840)

Ethmostigmus australianus Chamberlin, 1920

Heterostoma bisulcatum Tömösváry, 1885

Heterostoma crassipes Silvestri, 1894

Heterostoma fasciata Newport, 1845

Heterostoma flava Newport, 1845

Scolopendra megacephala Newport, 1844

Scolopendra rapax Gervais, 1847

Scolopendra scabriventris Newport, 1844

Scolopendra spinulosa Brandt, 1840

Scolopendra squalidens Newport, 1844

Scolopendra sulcicornis Newport, 1844

Scolopendra sulcidens Newport, 1844

Heterostoma rubripes grossipes Pocock, 1891

Type Locality: Java

Remarks: Also known from Cambodia, Java, Laos, Myanmar; Papua New Guinea, Peninsular Malaysia, Philippines, Sarawak, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The Last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Schileyko and Stagl in 2004.

Ethmostigmus spinosus (Newport, 1845)

Type Locality: Not designated

Remarks: Also known from India and Burma

Genus: *Cormocephalus* Newport, 1844

Cormocephalus sarasinorum (Haase, 1887)

Type Locality: Sri Lanka: Nuwaraeliya

Remarks: Only known from Sri Lanka. There have been no taxonomic revised in its original description.

Cormocephalus inermipes (Pocock, 1891)

Type Locality: Sri Lanka

Remarks: Only known from Sri Lanka. The last taxonomic scrutiny by Attems in 1930

Genus – *Otostigmus* Porat, 1876

Otostigmus ceylonicus (Haase, 1887)

Type Locality: Sri Lanka

Remarks: Also known from Myanmar. The last taxonomic scrutiny by Attems in 1930

Otostigmus insularis (Haase, 1887)

Type Locality: India

Remarks: Also known from Bhutan, Philippines and Seychelles

Otostigmus metallicus (Haase, 1887)

Type Locality: Sangir Island

Remarks: Also known from Indonesia. The type locality is in Indonesia, but was incorrectly reported from Sri Lanka by Kraepelin in 1903 and Attems in 1930.

Otostigmus scaber (Porat, 1876)

Branchiostoma multicarinatum Kohlrausch, 1878

Otostigmus carinatus Porat, 1876

Otostigmus malayanus Chamberlin, 1914

Otostigmus striatus Takakuwa, 1940

Otostigmus carinatus insulare Haase, 1887

Otostigmus striatus porteri Dobroruka, 1960

Otostigmus striatus striatus Takakuwa, 1940

Type Locality: China

Remarks: Also known from India, Andaman Is.; Bhutan; Cambodia, Myanmar, Nicobar Is, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatera, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Hawaiian Is. The last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Lewis in 2001.

Genus - *Rhysida* H.C.Wood, 1862

Rhysida ceylonica (Gravely, 1912)

Type Locality: Sri Lanka: Paradeniya

Remarks: Only known from Sri Lanka. The last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Attems in 1930.

Rhysida immarginata (Porat, 1876)

Branchiostoma gymnopus Kohlrausch, 1878

Branchiostoma indicum Kohlrausch, 1878

Branchiostoma subspinosum Tömösváry, 1885

Rhysida nuda brevicornis Wang, 1951

Rhysida nuda brevicornuta Wang, 1951

Branchiostoma immarginata celebense Haase, 1887

Type Locality: Philippines, Manila

Remarks: Congo, Cuba, Guatemala and Sudan. The last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Koch in 1985.

***Rhysida longipes* (Newport, 1845)**

Branchiostoma affine Kohlrausch, 1878
Branchiostoma gracile Kohlrausch, 1878
Branchiostoma longipes rotundatum Haase, 1887
Otostigmus simplex Chamberlin, 1913
Rhysida yanagiharai Takakuwa, 1935

Type Locality: Not designated

Remarks: Also known from India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Japan, China (Quang Chau), Cambodia, Philippines and USA

***Rhysida nuda* (Newport, 1845)**

Rhysida defecta Chamberlin, 1920
Rhysida kurandana Chamberlin, 1920
Branchiostoma obsoletum Porat, 1876
Branchiostoma subinerme Meinert, 1886

Type Locality: Australia (New Holland), Paramatta

Remarks: Also known from Burma, Siam, Australia and Paraguay. The Last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Koch L.E. in 1985

Genus – *Scolopendra* Linnaeus, 1758***Scolopendra hardwickei* (Newport, 1844)**

Scolopendra bicolor Humbert, 1865
Scolopendra histrionica Koch, 1847

Type Locality: India

Remarks: Also known from Andaman Is., Jawa, Nicobar Is. and Sumatra. The Last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Attems in 1930.

***Scolopendra crassa* (Templeton, 1846)**

Type Locality: Sri Lanka

Remarks: Only known from Sri Lanka. The Last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Attems in 1930.

***Scolopendra subspinipes* (Leach, 1815)**

Otostigmus politoides Attems, 1953
Otostigmus puncticeps Attems, 1953
Rhomboccephalus gambiae Newport, 1845
Rhomboccephalus smaragdinus Butler, 1876
Scolopendra aringensis Sinclair, 1901
Scolopendra atra Wood, 1861
Scolopendra audax Gervais, 1837
Scolopendra aurantipes Tömösváry, 1885
Scolopendra bispinipes Wood, 1862
Scolopendra borbonica Blanchard, 1844
Scolopendra byssina Wood, 1861
Scolopendra cephalica Wood, 1861
Scolopendra ceylonensis Newport, 1845
Scolopendra damnosa L. Koch, 1878
Scolopendra dinodon Wood, 1861
Scolopendra elongata Porat, 1871
Scolopendra flava Newport, 1845
Scolopendra flavicornis Tömösváry, 1885
Scolopendra gervaisii Newport, 1845
Scolopendra gracilipes Wood, 1861
Scolopendra lutea Newport, 1845
Scolopendra machaeropus Attems, 1900
Scolopendra macracanthus Bollman, 1889
Scolopendra mactans C.L. Koch, 1847

Scolopendra meyeri Haase, 1887
Scolopendra nesuphila Wood, 1862
Scolopendra newporti Lucas, 1849
Scolopendra ornata Newport, 1845
Scolopendra parvidens Wood, 1861
Scolopendra placeae Newport, 1845
Scolopendra planiceps Newport, 1845
Scolopendra plumbeolata Wood, 1861
Scolopendra polyodonta Daday, 1893
Scolopendra rarispina Gervais, 1847
Scolopendra repens Wood, 1862
Scolopendra rugosa Meinert, 1886
Scolopendra sandwichiana Gervais, 1847
Scolopendra septemspinosa Brandt, 1840
Scolopendra sexspinosa Newport, 1844
Scolopendra sulphurea C.L. Koch, 1847
Scolopendra variispinosa Tömösváry, 1885
Scolopendra cephalica gracilis Wood, 1861
Scolopendra subspinipes gracilipes Daday, 1891
Scolopendra subspinipes mollerii Verhoeff, 1892

Type Locality: Not designated

Remarks: Andaman Is, Nicobar Is, Philippines, Sarawak, Singapore, Colombia, Guyana, Hong Kong, Ivory Coast; Laos, Madagascar, Sulawesi, Sumatera, Surinam and Vietnam.

***Scolopendra morsitans* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Eurylithobius slateri Butler, 1876
Scolopendra afzelii Porat, 1871
Scolopendra angulipes Newport, 1844
Scolopendra attenuata Porat, 1871
Scolopendra bilineata Brandt, 1840
Scolopendra brachypoda Peters, 1862
Scolopendra brandtiana Gervais, 1837
Scolopendra carinipes Humbert & Saussure, 1870
Scolopendra chlorocephala Porat, 1871
Scolopendra cognate Porat, 1871
Scolopendra crassipes Brandt, 1840
Scolopendra elegans Brandt, 1841,
Scolopendra erythrocephala Brandt, 1840
Scolopendra fabricii Newport, 1845,
Scolopendra formosa Newport, 1845
Scolopendra fulvipes Brandt, 1841
Scolopendra grandidieri Saussure & Zehntner, 1902
Scolopendra impressa Porat, 1876
Scolopendra infesta Koch, 1847
Scolopendra intermedia Porat, 1871
Scolopendra leachii Newport, 1844
Scolopendra limbata Brandt, 1840
Scolopendra lineata Saussure & Zehntner, 1902,
Scolopendra longicornis Newport, 1844
Scolopendra modesta Wood, 1862
Scolopendra mossambica Peters, 1862
Scolopendra pella Wood, 1861
Scolopendra picturata Porat, 1871
Scolopendra pilosella Porat, 1871
Scolopendra planipes Koch, 1847
Scolopendra platypoides Newport, 1844
Scolopendra platypus Brandt, 1840
Scolopendra porphyratina Wood, 1861

Scolopendra richardsoni Newport, 1845
Scolopendra saltatoria Porat, 1871
Scolopendra spinosella Saussure & Zehntner, 1902
Scolopendra tigrina Newport, 1845
Scolopendra tongana Gervais, 1847
Scolopendra tuberculidens Newport, 1844
Scolopendra vaga Porat, 1871
Scolopendra varia Newport, 1845
Scolopendra wahlbergi Porat, 1871,
Scolopendra morsitans amazonica Bucherl, 1946
Scolopendra morsitans calcarata Daday, 1891
Scolopendra morsitans fasciata Attems, 1930
Scolopendra morsitans procera Haase, 1887
Scolopendra morsitans scopoliana Koch, 1841,
Scolopendra morsitans sulcipes Haase, 1887
Trachycormocephalus jodhpurensis Khanna, 1977.

Type Locality: India

Remarks: Also known from Asia (including Indonesia, New Guinea, Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan): Native to Madagascar and Sri Lanka, Indian Ocean islands, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands.

ORDER: SCUTIGEROMORPHA POCOCK, 1895**Family: Scutigerinidae Attems, 1926****Genus: *Scutigera* Silvestri, 1903*****Scutigera weberi* (Silvestri, 1903)**

Scutigera transvaalicus Silvestri, 1903

Type Locality: Zwarsberg (Colonia del Capo)

Remarks: Also known from Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The last taxonomic scrutiny was done by Edgecombe and Giribet in 2004.

Family: Scutigeridae Leach, 1814**Genus: *Thereuopoda* Verhoeff, 1904*****Thereuopoda longicornis* (Fabricius, 1793)**

Thereuonema amokiana Verhoeff, 1904

Scutigera birmanica Pocock, 1891

Scutigera castanea Meinert, 1886

Thereuopoda cerberina Verhoeff, 1943

Thereuopoda decipiens Verhoeff, 1905

Cermatia downesii Newport, 1845

Scutigera feae Pocock, 1891

Thereuopoda flagellifera Verhoeff, 1905

Thereuopoda haasei Verhoeff, 1937

Cermatia hardwickei Newport, 1845

Thereuopoda multidentata Verhoeff, 1905

Thereuopoda nana Verhoeff, 1905

Thereuopoda nivicomis Verhoeff, 1942

Cermatia nobilis Templeton, 1843

Thereuonema reconditum Silvestri, 1925

Scutigera serratipes Gervais, 1847

Thereuopoda singaporiensis Verhoeff, 1937

Scutigera templetoni Humbert, 1865

Thereuopoda tweedii Verhoeff, 1937

Thereuopoda venator Verhoeff, 1925

Thereuopoda viridescens Verhoeff, 1937

Thereuopoda decipiens cavernicola Verhoeff, 1937

Thereuonema nobilis dolichopoda Silvestri, 1925

Thereuopoda decipiens genuina Verhoeff, 1937

Thereuopoda flagellifera meggittii Verhoeff, 1937

Thereuopoda flagellifera rangoonensis Verhoeff, 1939

Type Locality: Hong Kong

Remarks: Also known from India, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The last taxonomic scrutiny was done by M. Würmli in 1979. *Thereuopoda clunifera* (Wood, 1862) - by subsequent designation.

Genus – *Thereuopodina* Verhoeff, 1905***Thereuopodina tenuicornis* (Verhoeff, 1905)**

Type Locality: Sri Lanka, Panachnoll

Remarks: The last taxonomic scrutiny by G.D Edgecombe and G. Giribet G (2004)

Discussion

A total of 24 species of centipedes in six families, 11 genera in four orders Scolopendromorpha, Geophilomorpha, Lithobiomorpha and Scutigermorpha, has been recorded from Sri Lanka. The current taxonomic status of many species needs reconfirmation because most have never been revised or re-described since their original description. The distribution data for Sri Lankan centipedes is insufficient and scattered. Because of only few species have been recorded only in one location, and there are large gaps in our knowledge of their distribution. For example, *Rhysida ceylonica* was found in Peradeniya (Central Province in Sri Lanka) and *Australobius ceylanicus* was found in Gall (Southern Province in Sri Lanka). We hope the current work will provide baseline data for future studies on centipedes in Sri Lanka.

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