

The millipede *Typhloglomeris caucasica* Golovatch, 1975 found epigeically (Diplopoda, Glomerida, Glomeridellidae)

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Abstract

The millipede *Typhloglomeris caucasica* Golovatch, hitherto considered as a troglobite confined to several caves near Sochi, western Caucasus, Russia, is recorded epigeically in the same region, and is therefore a troglophile.

Keywords

Diplopod, *Typhloglomeris caucasica*, Caucasus, Sochi, cave, forest litter, new record

Introduction

The small diplopod family Glomeridellidae contains only two valid genera: *Glomeridella* Brölemann, 1913, with 7-8 species ranging from France in the west, through the eastern Alps, to the Balkans in the east, and *Typhloglomeris* Verhoeff, 1898, with about 15 species, a few of which are presumed troglobites, from the Balkans, Caucasus, northwestern Iran, and Asia Minor (Golovatch 2003, Makarov et al. 2003). All *Glomeridella* and most *Typhloglomeris* species show distinctive colour patterns and are known to be epigean, but even among the few colourless representatives not all are troglobites. Thus, *T. fiumarana* Verhoeff, 1899 has been regarded as possibly a geobiont (Golovatch 1989, Golovatch 2003) because it was found in Croatia under stones, not in a cave. Similarly, *T. alba* (Golovatch, 1989), in which only the ocelli are pigmented, whereas the rest of the body is pallid, is clearly epigean in northwestern Anatolia, Turkey (Golovatch 1989). Only the following fully unpigmented congeners have hitherto been referred to as troglobites (Golovatch 1975, Golovatch 1989, Golovatch 2003, Makarov et al. 2003): *T. coeca* Verhoeff, 1898, from Croatia and Montenegro, *T. varunae* Makarov, Lučić, Tomić & Karaman, 2003, from Macedonia, *T. seuti* Makarov, Lučić, Tomić & Karaman, 2003, from

Montenegro, and *T. caucasica* Golovatch, 1975, from near Sochi, western Caucasus, Russia. Furthermore, based on several morphological characters, Makarov et al. (2003) treat *T. caucasica* as representing a species group of its own, the *caucasica*-group.

Taxon treatment

Typhloglomeris caucasica Golovatch, 1975

Material

- a. kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Diplopoda; order: Glomerida; family: Glomeridellidae; genus: Typhloglomeris; specificEpithet: caucasica; scientificNameAuthorship: Golovatch, 1975; country: Russia; stateProvince: Sochi; verbatimLocality: Khosta, Caucasian Biosphere Nature Reserve; samplingProtocol: pitfall trapping; eventDate: 14 July - 10 August 2006; habitat: Taxus & Buxus relict forest; individualCount: 1; sex: male; recordedBy: Y. A. Chumachenko; institutionCode: Zoological Museum, Moscow State University, Russia; occurrenceID: 248D8B3D-8545-5679-B600-FF7C115C17F2

Taxon discussion

The recent discovery of *T. caucasica* in a pitfall trap in forest near Sochi indicates that the ecological status of this species is a troglophile, not a troglobite, when it occurs in caves in the same area. This record emphasizes the need to carefully collect near and outside caves when assessing the degree of cavernicolity of endogean animals.

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