

***THEREUONEMA TUBERCULATA*, A SCUTIGEROMORPH CENTIPEDE FROM CHINA, FOUND IN A WAREHOUSE AT SWINDON.**

A.D. Barber

Rathgar, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0BD.
E-mail: abarber159@btinternet.com

A scutigermorph centipede found in a warehouse in Swindon (NGR: SU1984) last year (27/x/2010) and sent to FERA (Central Science Laboratories) was forwarded to me and examined by Greg Edgecombe (Natural History Museum) who identified it as *Thereuonema tuberculata* (Wood, 1863), sometimes called the Japanese House Centipede of which pictures may be found on the Internet. It seems to have been associated with a container from the Jiangning Economic Development Zone, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China which fits in with the known Asiatic distribution of the species (Würmli, 1975). The specimen is a female, 15 mm in body length.

Very characteristic of *Thereuonema* is the appearance of long, spike-like spiculae (Haarspitzen) which are hair-like outgrowths from the cuticular scutes that cover the surface of the tergites of the trunk (Würmli, 1975) (Fig. 2). Such structures are absent in *Scutigera coleoptrata* which, instead, has spinulae (Haarddörnsche), conical, bifurcating or multifurcating outgrowths on tergal plates. Edgecombe & Giribet (2006) illustrate both these type of structures (which are considered to be homologous).

Scutigera characteristically has a pair of spine-bristles (end-spines) at the distal end of the first tarsal segment of legs 5 or 6 to 14 (Fig. 1a), a diagnostic character of Scutigerae. These tarsal spine-bristles are not present in *Thereuonema*, this absence being characteristic of the subfamily Thereuoneminae (Fig. 1b). In addition the arrangement of tarsal papillae on legs 1-9 as illustrated in the Synopsis (Barber, 2009) is characteristic of *S. coleoptrata*, whereas *Thereuonema tuberculata*, like other members of Thereuoneminae, has tarsal papillae on legs 1-14.

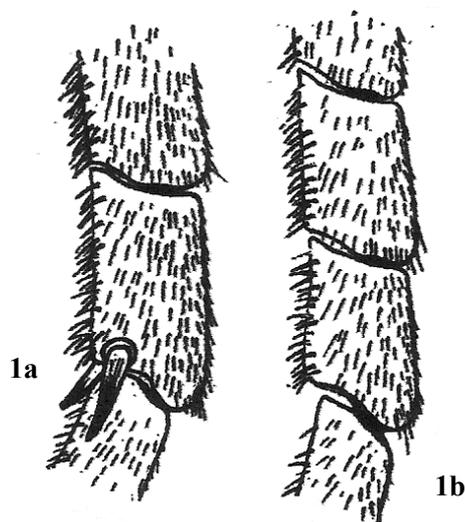


FIGURE 1: First tarsal segment of
a) *Scutigera coleoptrata* (b) *Thereuonema syriaca* x80 (from Demir,1948).

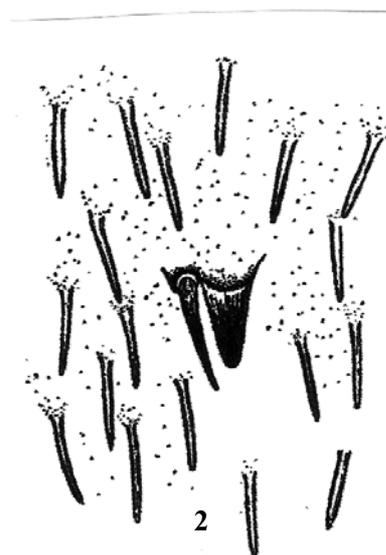


FIGURE 2: Part of a tergite of
Thereuonema syriaca x200
(from Demir,1948)

In the past, scutigermorph specimens recorded in Britain have always been referred to *Scutigera coleoptrata*; it would seem important in the future to check these, especially any that are suspected of having been imported from outside Europe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Greg Edgecombe for identifying the specimen and for comments and references relating to it and to Henrik Enghoff for making available a copy of the paper of Demir (1948) from which the illustrations are taken.

REFERENCES

- Barber, A.D. (2009) *Centipedes*. Synopses of the British Fauna (New Series) 58. Shrewsbury, Field Studies Council.
- Demir, M. (1948) Türkiye Scutigrid'leri hakkında [Über türkische Scutigriden]. *Revue de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université d'Istanbul, Série. B: Sciences naturelles* **13**: 269-279.
- Edgecombe, G.D. & Giribet, G (2006) A century later – a total evidence re-evaluation of the phylogeny of scutigermorph centipedes (Myriapoda: Chilopoda). *Invertebrate Systematics* **20**: 503-525.
- Würlmli, M. (1975) Revision der Hundertfüsser-Gattung *Thereuonema* (Chilopoda: Scutigridae). *Entomologica Germanica* **2**: 189-196.