

## MISCELLANEA

## GEOPHILOMORPHA OF EUROPE: SOME SYNONYMIES AND NAME CHANGES

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In a recent paper in *Zootaxa*, Lucio Bonato & Sandro Minelli (2014) have published a revised list of European species of geophilomorphs with taxonomic and nomenclatorial notes. As a consequence the identity of two species described from Britain in the genus *Arthronomalus* by Edward Parfitt (1866, 1874) has now been established and the names of four other British species it seems, should be changed or changed back to a previous form.

***Arthronomalus crassicornis* Parfitt, 1866** was found below the bark of an old elm near Exeter in April 1865 (Parfitt, 1866). Bonato & Minelli consider this to be a senior synonym of *Geophilus easoni* Arthur et al but in the circumstances, since it seems to have not been used since that date are asking the ICZN for a ruling in relation to the retention of *G. easoni*.

***Arthronomalus littoralis* Parfitt, 1874** was discovered by Mr. W.S.M.D'Urban in crevices of the red sandstone rocks at the foot of the cliffs and within reach of the waves at high water at Hole Head between Dawlish and Teignmouth in 1873 (Parfitt, 1874). Parfitt wrote that he had deposited specimens of this species in the Royal Albert Museum at Exeter but it appears that these cannot be located there however Bonato & Minelli show this species to be synonymous with *Hydroschendyla submarina* Grube, described (from the French coast) two years earlier. The habitat is typical for it and this would seem to be the earliest British published record of the species, predating the Thompson (1889) record from Jersey although, according to Pocock (1889) there were specimens of *H. submarina* in the Natural History Museum, which had been collected from Polperro by Laughrin and presented to it in 1868

***Stigmatogaster souletina***. *Nesoporogaster souletina brevior* was described by Eason (1962) based on British specimens. It seems to differ from *Nesoporogaster souletina* only on the basis of the lower average number of legs (93-95 in males, 97-101 in females as compared with 99-101 and 103-107). Bonato & Minelli regard *Nesoporogaster* as a junior synonym of *Haplophilus* and thus our species becomes *Haplophilus souletinus* Brölemann, 1907. However Iorio (2014) does not accept this change and retains the name *Stigmatogaster* for both this and the following species.

***Stigmatogaster subterranea***. According to Bonato & Minelli, *S. subterranea* shares all major diagnostic features with *Haplophilus*. The species, therefore, reverts to its previously well-known name of *Haplophilus subterraneus* (Shaw, 1794). There has been some confusion over this date as the actual paper refers to it having being read to the Linnean Society in 1789 but the volume in which it was published (Volume II) dates from 1794.

***Geophilus gracilis***. The junior synonym, *Geophilus fucorum seurati* Brölemann, 1924 (as used by Eason, 1964) is now accepted on the basis that the senior synonym *Geophilus gracilis* Meinert, 1870 is a primary junior homonym of *Geophilus gracilis* Gervais, 1849 (another species, now under *Eurytion*) so unavailable. There were sufficient differences from *Geophilus fucorum* for Bonato & Minelli confirm, at least provisionally, that *G. fucorum seurati* is a distinct species, *G.seurati*.

***Geophilus insculptus***. Several authors in the past decade have used *Geophilus alpinus* Meinert, 1870 as the correct name for *Geophilus insculptus* Attems, 1895 and the Linnean Society Synopsis

(Barber, 2009) noted that it was the earlier and therefore, probably, the correct name. The identity of these two species is now confirmed by Bonato & Minelli so *Geophilus alpinus* should be the name used in future for this widespread species. The name *Geophilus oligopus* was used in Britain for several years as the name for this animal but this is a different species not found in the British Isles. Older British authors often used the name *Geophilus proximus* for *G.alpinus* incorrectly

## REFERENCES

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## NOTE FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CENTIPEDE RECORDING SCHEME

Either the “old” names in the sense of having been used in either *Centipedes of the British Isles* or the Linnean Society Synopsis or the “new” ones suggested above can be used for submitting records to the recording scheme as species are allocated a number code for the scheme which does not change with nomenclatural changes. The only major exception to this is that of *Geophilus carpophagus* and *Geophilus easoni* which were not separated in *Centipedes of the British Isles* – they are, however separated in the Synopsis.