

ON THE TRUE IDENTITY OF GEOPHILUS INSCULPTUS ATTEMS, 1895

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It is clear from Attems' (1895: 163, fig.9) original description and figure of the maxillae of Geophilus insculptus that he had before him a specimen of G. proximus C. L. Koch and not one of the species known to British and most European authors as G. insculptus Attems. This misnamed species has been more recently described as G. glacialis by Verhoeff (1928) and G. henroti by Manfredi (1956), but Koren (1986) has shown that it was first described and figured by Attems (in the same paper as his description of G. insculptus) as Orinomus oligopus. This species has been variously placed, not only in Orinomus Attems, 1895 but in Orinophilus Cook, 1896 and Cyphonychius Verhoeff, 1928, all based on the peg-like structure of the second maxillary claw. It seems that this generic classification, which is not usually recognized, has led to oligopus being overlooked.

The correct synonymy of these two species now becomes -

Geophilus proximus C. L. Koch

Geophilus proximus C. L. Koch, 1847: 186; Brolemann, 1930: 159, figs 239-242
Geophilus insculptus Attems, 1895: 163, fig 9

Geophilus oligopus (Attems)

Orinomus oligopus Attems, 1895: 167, fig 11
Geophilus (Cyphonychius) glacialis Verhoeff, 1928: 231, fig 1
Orinophilus oligopus: Attems, 1929: 188, fig 175
Geophilus insculptus: Brolemann, 1930: 175, figs 279-283 et auct
(non Attems, 1895)
Geophilus henroti Manfredi, 1956: 204

Name changes of widely known species are tedious, more especially when they are merely based on the revival of an early synonym. But now that Koren has shown that the species commonly known as Geophilus insculptus has been misdetermined, it is important that we should follow her example and call it by its correct name, particularly as the true insculptus (= proximus) has recently been added to the British list by Tony Barber (1986).

References

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