The first record of the pantropical anthropophage millipede, *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889, from Cameroon (Diplopoda: Polydesmida: Haplodesmidae)

Первая находка пантропической антропохорной многоножки *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889 в Камеруне (Diplopoda: Polydesmida: Haplodesmidae)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: диплопода, Haplodesmidae, *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus*, пантропический, интродукция, partenogenезис, Камерун.

ABSTRACT. The first formal record of the pantropical millipede, *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889, is given from Cameroon. The species seems to be restricted to a man-made palm plantation within the capital city of Yaoundé, apparently being represented by a bisexual population. A male is richly illustrated to confirm the identity.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Приведена первая формальная находка пантропической многоножки *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889 в Камеруне. Вид, вероятно, приурочен к рукотворной пальмовой плантации в столице Яунде, будучи представлен, очевидно, обеополой популяцией. Даны многочисленные иллюстрации самца для подтверждения видовой принадлежности.

Introduction

The millipede *Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889, is among the few that show a truly pantropical distribution in the entire class Diplopoda. According to the latest review of *Cylindrodesmus* Pocock, 1889 [Golovatch et al., 2001], this genus encompasses only two species: *C. hirsutus* and *C. villosus* Pocock, 1898. Since its description from Christmas Island, Indian Ocean, *C. hirsutus* (or its numerous synonyms) has been reported either by bisexual or partenogenetic populations from nearly throughout the tropics, as well as several European hot-houses, whereas *C. villosus* remains known only from Rotuma Island, Fiji, Pacific Ocean. In Africa, in addition to the Comoro and Seychelle islands off the eastern coast, *C. hirsutus* has only been recorded from a single mainland locality: Amani, a somewhat “synanthropic” habitat in the East Usambara Mountains, NE Tanzania [Enghoff, 1978]. As noted by Bergholz [2005], shifts from a partenogenetic to a bisexual state and back seem to occur regularly in *C. hirsutus*, depending on environmental conditions: harsher habitats tend to support the thelytokous (male-free) form, while more favourable places tend to be populated by the bisexual form.

The present note puts on record *C. hirsutus* discovered in Cameroon for the first time. This is also a second Afrotropical locality found to support that species.

Material and methods

Most of the material treated here derives from the collection of the Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale (MRAC), Tervuren, Belgium, with only a few duplicates retained for the collection of the second author (ARNF), Cameroon or donated to the Zoological Museum, State University of Moscow (ZMUM), Russia. The samples are stored in 70% ethanol. Specimens for scanning electron microscopy (SEM) were air-dried, mounted on aluminium stubs, coated with gold and studied using a JEOL JSM-6480LV scanning electron microscope.

Taxonomic part

*Cylindrodesmus hirsutus* Pocock, 1889

Figs 1–9.

MATERIAL. 3 ♂♂, 37 ♀♀, 23 juv. (MRAC 22721), 1 ♂ (SEM, MRAC 22722), Cameroon, campus of University of Yaoundé 1, palm plantation, 7.IV.2015, leg. A.R. Nzoko Fiemapong.
REMARKS. That this pantropical anthropochore diplopod has been found in an artificial plantation within a large city in western Africa is hardly surprising. More remarkable seems to be the sex ratio in the Yaoundé population which, however strongly biased to females, is not totally devoid of ♀♂, i.e. likely bisexual. This might imply that the palm plantation in the university campus in Cameroon is a more favourable habitat for *C. hirsutus* than the one at Amani, Tanzania, whence not a single ♀ was recorded among 55 specimens collected [Enghoff, 1978].

New illustrations (Figs 1–9) are provided to demonstrate the species’ identity and make it easily recognizable.

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