The myriapodological legacy of Vyacheslav Stepanovich Muralewicz (1881–1942?)

Миріаподологічне наслідство Вячеслава Степановича Муралевича (1881–1942?)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Миріаподи, таксономия, историография, бібліографія, Зоологічний музей МГУ.

ABSTRACT. A brief biographic account is presented for Russian myriapodologist V.S. Muralewicz who worked much of his life, between 1908 and 1929, at the Zoological Museum of the Moscow University. Altogether, he published 16 research papers (+ one rectification) on the taxonomy, faunistics and biology of Myriapoda, mainly Chilopoda from Russia and the Caucasus. Full lists of his contributions and the 35 taxa he proposed are provided, with notes on their current status.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Представлен краткий биографический обзор для В.С. Муралевича, русского миріаподолога, который большую часть своей жизни проработал в Зоологическом музее Московского университета. Всего он опубликовал 16 научных статей (+ одну поправку) по таксономии, фаунистике и биологии многоножек (Myriapoda), в основном губоногих (Chilopoda) России и Кавказа. Приведены полные списки его работ и предложенных им 35 таксонов с замечаниями об их современном статусе.

Vyacheslav Stepanovich (= Stefanovich as a variant) Muralewicz (Вячеслав Степанович Муралевич) was born in Kiev, orthodox by nativity. First he grew and went to school in the Tavrichesky Province, Crimea, Russia. In 1899, he entered the Natural History Division of the Moscow University. As a student of Professor G.A. Kozhevnikov, he worked under the latter’s supervision in 1908–1909 at the then established Summer Station of the Moscow Society of the Amateurs of Aquarium and Indoor Plants at Kosino, near Moscow. In 1901, V.S. Muralewicz collected a herbarium in the vicinities of Sevastopol, Crimea. In 1907, he taught at V.V. Lomonosova’s private gymnasium. Since 1908, he became a supernumerary assistant at the Moscow University. As such, in 1909 he collected material of Sphaeroma isopod crustaceans at the Sevastopol Biological Station, at the same time passing through a “general course” in zoology.

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In 1909–1910, he identified the collection of Myriapoda from the Caucasus at the Zoological Museum of the Imperial Moscow University. It was then, through Muralewicz’s mediation, that the museum purchased an identified, but generally useless collection of Diplopoda from K.W. Verhoeff, a renowned German myriapodologist who sold synoptic and random collections of mostly European Myriapoda to as many natural history museums as he could find. The Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg also bought then a similarly useless selection of various juvenile and/or female Diplopoda from Verhoeff, again through a recommendation of V.S. Muralewicz.

Since that time and until the end of the 1920’s, Muralewicz specialized in the systematics and faunistics of Myriapoda, mostly Chilopoda, from the Moscow Zoological Museum. He tutored students of the university and held workshops in invertebrate zoology. Since 1911, he joined the Commission for the Study of the Moscow Province’s Fauna. Since 1912, Muralewicz held the position of Assistant at the Chair of Zoology in the Zoological Museum of the Imperial Moscow University. The same year 1912, upon the recommendations of N.Ya. Kuznetsov, V.F. Bolyrev and G.G. Jacobson, V.S. Muralewicz was offered the status of a full member of the Russian Entomological Society. In 1913, he rendered a collection of insects he had taken from the Amur Railway, Siberia to the Moscow Zoological Museum. Since 1914, he was Assistant at the Zoology Cabinet of the Chair of Zoology of the Imperial Moscow University. Muralewicz invested much time in cataloguing the collections of the Zoological Museum. Thus, in 1910 he provided catalogues for the Museum’s holdings of Coelenterata, Porifera, Echinodermata and Mollusca; in 1912 he catalogued the collections of Bryozoa and Crustacea. He was elected as Member of the Bureau of Junior Professors of the Moscow University.

After the October Revolution (1917)

A renowned activist of the “Union of Labour Intelligentsia” and the “Council of Social Activists” since their organization, Muralewicz was involved in the political conspiracy case of the “Tactic Centre”, being accused of having prepared, upon an order of the “conspirators”, a memorandum on the future development of public education. At the trial in 1920, V.S. Muralewicz denied outright the accusations that he had compiled his memorandum upon someone’s order, stating that had been a manuscript prepared for the journal “Public School” he had given to D.M. Shchepkin for possible critiques.

Nevertheless, V.S. Muralewicz was sentenced to shooting, but released after all in the courtroom with a suspended prison sentence of 5 years. Based on S.P. Melgunov’s evidence, Muralewicz was pro-Soviet: “any actions directed against the Soviet power are crimes against Russia”.

In 1923, Muralewicz gave lectures on the “Basics of modern natural history” (90 hours), being Professor at the State Institute of Journalism. In 1927, he remained Professor of the First Moscow University, sharing that job with being a staff member of the Russian Historical Museum.

Many competent sources erroneously quoted that “zoologist and physicist” V.S. Muralewicz was sentenced in 1933 to a 3-year long exile to Kazakhstan on the case of “The Party of Russia’s Revival”. However, this information actually concerned his younger brother Vadim. Both Vyacheslav and Vadim Muralewicz were repeatedly mentioned during interrogations on that case, but as there is no direct evidence of Vyacheslav’s second arrest and interrogations ever since 1929, when his last publications appeared, he seems to have been arrested in or after 1929 and was already absent from Moscow in 1933.

The latest trustworthy information that might concern V.S. Muralewicz dates back to 1934, when a collection of insects taken at Chimkent, Kazakhstan was deposited in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Leningrad (now again St. Petersburg). It only remains unclear whether it had been Vyacheslav or Vadim who donated that collection there, because Vadim was a physician and could as well take insects during the exile, the more so as he is definitely known to have been exiled to Kazakhstan.

Both brothers were rehabilitated only much later, long after they had perished. So even the year 1942 as the date when Vyacheslav S. Muralewicz died is only provisional.

The relevant information, as well as portrait pictures of both Vyacheslav and Vadim Muralewicz are certainly available in the archive paperwork files for rehabilitated ChK/NKVD/KGB victims, currently kept in the State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow. However, we have decided to stop where we are, as we are not members of the Muralewicz family to trace genealogy (numerous Муралевичи accounts can be found in the social network!). Instead we are colleague zoologists of Vyacheslav Stepanovich Muralewicz, two of us being myriapodologists and two working at the Zoological Museum of the Moscow Lomonosov State University (ZMMU). Therefore, we rather focus on his scientific legacy, not on his tragic fate he had to share with millions of compatriots (and not only) during the Great Terror times in Russia or the Soviet Union in the first half of the last century.

Scientific legacy of V.S. Muralewicz

Vyacheslav S. Muralewicz was quite a prominent Russian zoologist of the early 20th century who worked at the Zoological Museum of the Moscow University and studied Myriapoda most of his life. Although he did publish a few popular-science papers as well (on biopsychology, anthropology, evolution etc.), his main research activities, ardour and legacy concerned myriapodology.

Altogether, V.S. Muralewicz published 16 papers and one rectification on myriapod taxonomy, faunistics and biology (see List 1 below). He mainly focused on
Chilopoda and only marginally dealt with Diplopoda, although he identified all Myriapoda, including Pauropoda and Symphyla, in the collections he received for study. He described or named as many as three new millipedes and 32 centipedes (see List 2 below), many of which were later synonymized or renamed though.

Nearly half (8) of the myriapodological papers by V.S. Muralewicz were published in German in “Zoolo-gischer Anzeiger”, the leading language of and one of the main German outlets on zoological research worldwide before WWII. But even his faunistic contributions which contained descriptions of new species or subspecies in Russian were always accompanied by brief or lengthy diagnoses in Latin. Unfortunately, illustrations were always very few, if any.

V.S. Muralewicz transliterated his Russian name (B.C. Муралевич) in Latin script in several ways, the original spelling being strictly followed below in both List 1 and List 2. They all, however, concerned the same author who never published in co-authorship. We have chosen to spell his name in the Polish transliteration, the way he did himself several times.

As regards the numerous faunistic records of Diplopoda across European Russia and the Caucasus, most of them were misidentifications, because V.S. Muralewicz tended to treat material as largely belonging to common European species. Lohmander [1936] pointed this out in his monograph covering the millipedes of the Caucasus by listing most of Muralewicz’s wrong identifications and records from that region. Lokshina [1969], based on Muralewicz’s pertinent material housed in ZMMU, likewise corrected many errors by Muralewicz in her monograph devoted to the Diplopoda of the European part of the former Soviet Union. Even the few taxonomic names of Caucasian millipedes he proposed are all invalid (see List 2).

The ZMMU collection contains the type series of 14 species or subspecies/forms of the orders Scolopendromorpha, Lithobiomorpha, Geophilomorpha, and Scutigeromorpha described or named by Muralewicz, including four that are nomina nuda. In particular, much like Diplopoda, all his four “new” scolopendromorphs appear to be junior synonyms of older widespread species (see List 2 below). Concluding remarks for each species account in List 2, if not otherwise indicated, are omitted to confirm by default the taxon’s present validity.

Generally, Muralewicz contributed considerably to the confusion in centipede taxonomy, as one can see from List 2. For instance, he identified the ZMMU specimen of Scolopendra oraniensis Lucas, 1846 (Rc 8058) from the synaptic collection of Myriapoda the ZMMU had purchased from K.W. Verhoeff as “Scolopendra mediterranea africana Verhoef, det. Mura- lewicz”, this being a nomen nudum; there are Scolopendra mediterranea Verhoeff, 1893 and S. oraniensis africana Attems, 1902, later synonymized with S. oraniensis Lucas, 1846 and S. canidens Newport, 1844, respectively. Altogether, the ZMMU collection presently harbours nearly 170 lots of non-type specimens of various Chilopoda identified by Muralewicz, which are mainly trivial and widespread species from the southern regions of Russia and the adjacent countries of Transcaucasia.

List 1. Bibliography of Vyacheslav Stepanovich Muralewicz on Myriapoda

Muralewitsch W. 1906. Myriapoden, gesammelt von der Expedition nach der Halbinsel Kanin im Jahre 1902 // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.30. S.66–69.

Muralewicz W.S. 1907. К фауне Мириопод Минской губернии [To the fauna of Myriopoda of the Minsk Province] // Труды студенческого научного кружка для исследования русской природы Московском университете [Proceedings of the Students’ Group for the Study of Russia’s Nature at the Moscow University]. No.3. P.94–98 [in Russian].

Muralewitsch W. 1907. Zwei neue Arten von Scoligera aus der Mandschurei // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.31. Nr.3. S.240–243.

Muralewitsch W.S. 1907. Zur Myriopodenfauna des Kaukasus // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.31. Nr.11–12. S.329–351.

Muralewitsch W.S. 1907. Berichtigung zum Aufsatz «Zur Myriopodenfauna des Kaukasus» (Zool. Anz. 1907, Nr.11/12) // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.31. Nr.25. S.863.

Muralewitz W.S. 1908. Über die Myriopodenfauna des Char-kowskischen Gouvernements. I. Mitteilung // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.33. Nr.4. S.124–126.

Muralewitsch W.S. 1911. Übersicht über die Chilopodenfauna des Caucasus // Zeitseitschrift des K. K. Naturhistorischen Central-Museums. T.5. P.1–80 [in Russian].

Muralewicz W.S. 1913. Einige Bemerkungen über außereuropäische Scolopendriden // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.41. S.195–202.

Muralewitsch W.S. 1913. Членоносые // Arthropoda. Глава VIII. Класс Многоножкі – Myriapoda. [Arthropods. – Arthropoda. Chapter VIII. Class myriapods. – Myriapoda] // Saturnin K.A. (ed.). Saturnin K.A., Berg L.S., Kirichenko A.N., Muralewitsch V.S. Фауна Черноморского побережья Кавказа (Fau- na littorialis Ponti Euxini). [Fauna of the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus]. Tруды Общества изучения Черноморского побережья [Proceedings of the Society for the Study of the Black Sea Coast]. T.2. P.217–221 [in Russian].

Muralewitsch V. 1914. К фауне Myriopoda Нагорной Маньчжуріи [To the fauna of Myriopoda of the Nizhny Novgorod Province] // Русское Энтомологическое Обозрение [Russian Entomological Review]. T.13 (for 1913). No.1. P.95–98 [in Russian].

Muralewitsch V. 1914. К фауне Мириопод Смоленской губернии [To the fauna of Myriopoda of the Smolenks Province] // Русское Энтомологическое Обозрение [Russian Entomological Review]. T.13 (for 1913). Nos 3–4. P.501–505 [in Russian].

Muralewicz W.S. 1926. Neue Lithobius- und Henicos-Arten // Zoologischer Anzeiger. Bd.67. S.218–220.

Muralewicz W.S. 1926. О биологии Scutigera coleoptrata L. // On the biology of Scutigera coleoptrata L. // Русский Зоологический Жurnal [Russian Zoological Journal]. T.7. No.1. P.34–38 [in Russian].

Muralewicz W.S. 1927. К фауне Мириопод Кавказа [To the fauna of Myriopoda of the Caucasus] // Известия Ставропольского Энтомологического Общества [Acta Societatis Entomologi- cae Stauropolitanae]. T.3. No.1. P.4–7 [in Russian].

Muralewitz W.S. 1927. Критический обзор систематических признаков Lithobini Verh. Часть I и II [A critical review of the taxonomic characters of Lithobini Verh. Part I and II] // Русский Зоологический Жurnal [Russian Zoological Journal]. T.7. No.2. P.3–33 [in Russian, a summary in German].

Mouralévitch V.S. 1929. Scutigeridae и Lithobidae кавказской фауны [Scutigeridae and Lithobidae of the Caucasian fauna] //
List 2. Myriapod taxa proposed by V.S. Muralewicz

DIPLOPODA
Iulus (recte: Julus) foetidissimus Muralewitsch, 1907
Junior homonym of Iulus (recte: Julus) foetidissimus Savi, 1819, presently referred to as Pachyiulus krivolutskyi Golovatch, 1977, endemic to the western Caucasus within both Georgia and Russia [Evsyukov, 2016].

Iulus (recte: Julus) fallax var. caucasicus Muralewitsch, 1907
Remaining since a variety, it has no status in the nomenclature.

Iulus (recte: Julus) fallax var. colchica Muralewitsch, 1907
A nomen nudum that has no status in the nomenclature.

CHILOPODA
Scolopendromorpha
Cupipes gerwaissianus (sic!) pilicornis Muralewicz, 1927
Synonym of Cormocephalus gerwaissianus (C.L. Koch, 1841), det. A. Schileyko, synonymized by Zalesskaja & Schileyko [1991: 19].
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 7243 (holotype).
TYPE LOCALITY. Azerbaijan, Anzov.
REMARK. The original description (1927) contains no data on the type locality. Absent from Bonato et al. [2016].

Trachycormocephalus medius Muralewicz, 1926 (= Scolopendra media), vid. A. Schileyko
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 6266 (holotype).
TYPE LOCALITY. Azerbaijan, Agsu.
REMARK. A dried and half-decomposed specimen impossible to identify. Most probably a junior synonym of Scolopendra canidens Newport, 1844.

Scolopendra subsinipes gastrofotoreata Muralewicz, 1913
Synonym of Scolopendra subsinipes Leach, 1815, det. A. Schileyko.
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 6844 (holotype).
TYPE LOCALITY. Philippines, Mindanao.
REMARK. The original label (old No 1267) reads: “Scolopendra subsinipes L. o-a Mindanao, Филиппинские o-a 1899” (“Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands 1899”), without mention of a new subspecies on the original label.

Scolopendra conjungens Muralewicz, 1913
Junior synonym of Scolopendra angulata Newport, 1844, synonymized by Schileyko [2014: 177].
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 6815 (holotype).
TYPE LOCALITY. Venezuela, Aragua State, mountain Victoria.

Scutigeromorpha
Thereuonema ballistes Muralewitsch, 1907
Junior synonym of Thereuonema tuberculata (Wood, 1862), synonymized by Würml [1975: 193].
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection.
TYPE LOCALITY. Manchuria (i.e. Northeast China), Kuatschen-shy in the environs of “Zundingpu”

Thereuonema hellica Muralewitsch, 1907
Junior synonym of Thereuonema tuberculata (Wood, 1862), synonymized by Würml [1975: 193].
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection.
TYPE LOCALITY. Manchuria (i.e. Northeast China), Sandiopa village in the environs of “Juschita Mamyka City”.

Scutigera oxyppga Muralewitsch, 1911
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection.
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, “Tauria” (Crimea), Pneodosia.
REMARKS. Most probably “S. oxyppga” is a junior synonym of the widespread S. coleoptrata (Linnaeus, 1758), because only the latter species is presently known to occur in Crimea [Attems, 1907]. Type material of S. oxyppga (or at least topotypes) must be re-examined to draw definitive conclusions concerning the status of this doubtful form. Bonato et al. [2016] mentioned this species as described in 1910, not 1911.

Lithobiomorpha
Henicops armenicus Muralewicz, 1927 (Lithobius armenicus?)
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection.
TYPE LOCALITY. Iran, Gjamsbschi, Schack Island in Lake Urmia (“Gjamsbschi (Schach-Insel) auf dem Urmiassee in Persien”).
REMARK. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: “Generic assignment uncertain, requiring restudy”.

Lithobius anodis aberrans Muralewicz, 1926
Synonym of Harpolithobius anodis (Latzel, 1880), transferred and synonymized by Zalesskaja [1978].
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection.
TYPE LOCALITY. ?
RANGE. Georgia (Kakheti region, Lagodekhi); Russia (Caucasus: Sochi, Krasnaya Polyana).
REMARK. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: “described as n. sp. also in Muralevitich 1929”.

Lithobius asper Muralewicz, 1926
STATUS. ZMMU Nos Rs 8113-8117 (syntypes).
TYPE LOCALITY. ?
RANGE. Georgia (Orlowka); Turkey (Arpagel-Tschaldyr; Chozakent Pass); Armenia.
REMARK. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: “described as n. sp. also in Muralevitsch 1929”.

Lithobius (Monotarsobius) caninensis Muralewitsch, 1906
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 7693 (holotype).
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Kanin Peninsula, Olkhovka River near mouth of Mezen’ River (“р. Ольховка близ устья р. Мезени”).
REMARK. The ZMMU collection also contains 6 specimens (No Rc 7692, identified by N.T. Zalesskaya)
collected exactly in the same place, at the same time and by the same person as the holotype, but not mentioned in the original description.

*Lithobius circassus* Muralewitsch, 1907

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Smolensk Region. 

*Lithobius colchicus* Muralewitsch, 1907

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Adygea, Belaja River. 

-Lithobius* fallax* Muralewicz, 1906

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Kanin Peninsula, Olkhovka River near mouth of Mezen' River ("п. Ольховка близ устья реки Мезени"). 
REM. Bonato et al. [2016] noted the type locality as "Russia: Vladikaukauas".

-Lithobius* fasciatus* Muralewicz, 1929

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, North Ossetia, Adaj-Choch Plateau; Wladikaukaz; Belaja River ("Монастырь Св. Севанга"); Abkhazia, Sukhum. 
REM. Apparently a nomen nudum, absent from the literature.

*Lithobius* sp. also in Muralevitch 1929.

Lithobius (Archilithobius) megapocus Muralewitsch, 1907

Transferred to the genus Hessebius by Zalesskaja [1978].
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 8131 (syntype).
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia: Caucasus (Elenowka), Weli (?).

*Lithobius niger* Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Iran, "Amir-Abad, südlich vom Urmiasen" (south of Lake Urmia). 
REM. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "non Lithobius niger Takakuwa, 19??".

*Lithobius piceus caucasica Muralewicz, 1926

Junior synonym of Hessebius megapocus Muralewitsch, 1907, synonymized by Matic & Darabantu [1968].
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia: Caucasus (Elenowka), Weli (?). 
REM. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "described as n. sp. also in Muralevich 1929".

*Lithobius striatus* Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Stavropol Province, Petrovsk. 
REM. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "described as n. sp. also in Muralevitch 1929".

*Lithobius striatus* Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, North Ossetia, Adaj-Choch (Adajchoch). 
RANGE. Russia, Caucasus (Kislowodsk; Bermamut Plateau; Wladikaukaz; Belaja River); Georgia (Kakheti region, Lagodekhi). 
REM. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote that all data concerning *L. striatus* are identical to those concerning *L. fasciatus* Muralevitch, 1929; in fact the original label (in pencil) of the latter species reads "Polybothrus fasciatus" with no any other data.

*Lithobius venatoriformis Muralewitsch, 1914

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Smolensk Region. 

-*Geophilomorpha*

*Geophilus trichopus Muralewicz, 1927

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. 
TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Adygea, Belaja River. 
REM. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "Incerte sundunt. Original assignment to the genus Geophilus Leach, 1814 is most probably incorrect".
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Pachymerium monticola Muralewicz, 1927
STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Teberda.

Polyporogaster tunctorum brevis Muralewicz
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 7779 (syntype). TYPE LOCALITY. Turkmenia, Ashkhabad. REMARK. Apparently a nomen nudum, absent from the literature.

Bothriogaster signatus forma currocarinata Muralewicz
STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 8039 (types). TYPE LOCALITY. Georgia, Tbilisi (“Тифлис”). REMARK. Apparently a nomen nudum, absent from the literature.

Myriapod patronym dedicated to V.S. Muralewicz
Polydesmus muralewiczi Lohmander, 1936, a millipede species endemic to the Northwest Caucasus within Russia [Lohmander, 1936; Golovatch et al., 2016].

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Zalesskaja N.T., Schileyko Ark.A. 1991. [Scolopendromorph centipedes (Chilopoda Epimorpha)]. Moscow: Nauka. 103 pp. [In Russian]