

# A review of the millipede fauna of Iran (Diplopoda)

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**Abstract.** Fifty species of millipedes (Diplopoda) are recorded from Iran, based on a literature survey and a study of new material. *Nopoiulus extremus* Enghoff, 1984 (Blaniulidae), *Brachyiulus lusitanus* Verhoeff, 1898 (Julidae), *Megaphyllum brachyurum* (Attems, 1899) (Julidae) and *Oxidus gracilis* (C. L. Koch, 1847) (Paradoxosomatidae) are new to the fauna of Iran. *Syrioiulus persicus* (Golovatch, 1983) is a new combination (from *Amblyiulus p.*). Several species described from Iran still need revision.

**Kurzfassung.** Es werden 50 Arten von Tausendfüßern (Diplopoda) aus Iran gemeldet, basierend auf Literaturstudien und neuem Material. *Nopoiulus extremus* Enghoff, 1984 (Blaniulidae), *Brachyiulus lusitanus* Verhoeff, 1898 (Julidae), *Megaphyllum brachyurum* (Attems, 1899) (Julidae) und *Oxidus gracilis* (C. L. Koch, 1847) (Paradoxosomatidae) sind neu für die Fauna von Iran. *Syrioiulus persicus* (Golovatch, 1983) ist eine neue Kombination (von *Amblyiulus p.*). Mehrere Arten, die aus dem Iran beschrieben wurden, bedürfen einer Revision.

**Key words.** Millipedes, Diplopoda, taxonomy, Iran, Middle East.

## Introduction

HUMBERT & SAUSSURE (1869) gave the first record of a millipede (Diplopoda) from Iran (*Tetrarthrosoma persicum*). Since then, a considerable number of papers on Iranian millipedes have been published. The one that comes closest to a comprehensive treatment is that by ATTEMS (1951), who reported on the results of an expedition to Iran, and included a list of the 30 millipede species known from Iran at that time. The present contribution summarises the literature on Iranian millipedes, providing locality data for all species so far as is possible. Synonyms are given only to the extent that they have been used in the literature on Iranian millipedes.

In addition to the literature survey, a number of new records are given. These are based on material collected by SHIRZAD M. KIASARI and SAYED ABBAS MORAVVEJ and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Denmark (Zoological Museum), University of Copenhagen (ZMUC) and in the Insect Collection, Department of Plant Protection, Chamran University, Ahwaz (CUA); on material donated to ZMUC by CARLES RIBERA (Barcelona); and on material collected by JOCHEN MARTENS & HARALD PIEPER, deposited in the Forschungsinstitut und Museum Senckenberg, Frankfurt a.M. (SMF).

The list of Iranian millipedes given here comprises 50 species. Much more work undoubtedly remains to be done in this field. For instance, the material collected by J. MARTENS and H. PIEPER (SMF) still contains several unstudied species, and revisionary work in the genera *Strongylosoma* and *Tetrarthrosoma* will certainly result in adjustments to the list. Finally, future collections will without doubt reveal many new species.

Some modern, alternative spellings of locality names have been added [in square brackets].