Some Chilopoda (Myriapoda) Records from the City of Eskişehir

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Abstract: Turkey is one of the richest countries in terms of the Chilopoda fauna. However, knowledge of the Chilopoda fauna of some parts of Anatolia is still limited, particularly of Central Anatolia. This study is based on Chilopoda samples collected from two different localities in the city of Eskişehir. Four species belonging to four genera were determined.

Key Words: Chilopoda, Turkish Chilopods, Eskişehir, Central Anatolia

Introduction

The first studies on Turkish Chilopods were carried out by Newport (1845) and Koch (1863) on samples collected from Lycia and Ephesus respectively. After these studies, two European myriapodologists, Carl Wilhelm Verhoeff (Verhoeff, 1896, 1898, 1905, 1925, 1934, 1937) and Carl Graaf Attems (Attems, 1905, 1932, 1939, 1947), studied Turkish specimens collected during zoological expeditions in Anatolia by several other naturalists.

Additional specimens were collected from 1940 to 1949 by Curt Kosswig. Some of them were identified by Verhoeff (1941, 1943, 1944) (1). During the same period, a paper on Scutigeromorpha also collected by Kosswig was published by Demir (1948) (1,2).

After that, one of the most important studies was published in 1952 by Ralph V. Chamberlin. Eighty-five new species and 11 new genera and subgenera were described in that study. Then the Romanian myriapodologist Zachiu Matic studied Turkish specimens (Matic, 1970, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1983). In 1973, a revision of Scutigeridae was published by Würmli (1973).

More recently, some papers on Lithobiomorpha have been published by Zapparoli (Zapparoli, 1988, 1989, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995) and Zapparoli and Minelli (1993). In addition, the first modern attempt to describe the distribution patterns of Turkish chilopods was published by Zapparoli (1990). In 1999, an updated checklist of Turkish species was given with some zoogeographical notes and descriptions of some new taxa by the same author (1).

The aim of this paper is to give some results of identification of Chilopoda samples from the city of Eskişehir in Central Anatolia, where the Chilopoda fauna is not well known.

Materials and Methods

This study was performed on samples collected from two localities during an excursion in April 2001. Seventy percent ethanol was used for fixation. Collecting sites are described below.

Localities:

Results

Four species belonging to four genera were determined in this study. The species list and the distribution data are given below with collecting localities.

Scolopendra cingulata Latreille

Localities: Loc.1 (1 specimen), loc. 2 (9 specimens).


Distribution: Mediterranean countries (1).

Geophilus conjugens Verhoeff

Localities: Loc. 2 (1 specimen).

Turkish records: Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bursa, Çanakkale, İstanbul, Aydın, Manisa, Antalya, Konya, Iğdır, İzmir, Muğla, Ordu, Tokat, Çankırı, Yozgat, Ağrı, Muş (1).

Distribution: East Mediterranean countries (1).

Clinopodes flavidus C.L. Koch

Localities: Loc. 2 (1 specimen).

Turkish records: Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bursa, Çanakkale, İstanbul, Aydın, Manisa, Antalya, Konya, Iğdır, İzmir, Muğla, Ordu, Tokat, Çankırı, Yozgat, Ağrı, Muş, Van, Gaziantep, Malatya, Şanlıurfa (1).

Distribution: Holarctic region. Widespread in Europe and Mediterranean countries (1).

Lithobius nigripalpis L. Koch

Localities: Loc. 2 (4 specimens).


Distribution: Mediterranean countries. Anatolia, Crete, Aegean Islands, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, north of the Danube river (1,3,4).

Discussion and Conclusion

All species collected in this study have been recorded from Turkey previously.

Clinopodes flavidus is one of the most widespread species in Europe and Mediterranean countries. It is also one of the most frequently found species in Anatolia. Lithobius nigripalpis and Scolopendra cingulata are widespread species in Anatolia as well as in other Mediterranean countries (1,3,4). Therefore it is not surprising to report these species from two areas of Eskişehir.

In previous studies, an East Mediterranean species, Geophilus conjugens, has been recorded from South, West and North Anatolia (1). It is not common in Central Anatolia.

To the best of our knowledge, to date 123 species have been recorded from Turkey. They comprise two Scutigeromorpha (two genera), 73 Lithobiomorpha (seven genera), 13 Scolopendromorpha (two genera), and 35 Geophilomorpha (15 genera).

Thirty-eight species are endemic to Anatolia. The distributions of endemic species according to regions of Anatolia are as follows: 13 in North Anatolia, two in West Anatolia, three in Northwest Anatolia, six in Northeast Anatolia and Caucasia, eight in South Anatolia, one Central Anatolia, four in Southeast Anatolia, and one around the city of Artvin (1,5).

Our knowledge of the Chilopoda fauna of some parts of Anatolia is still far from complete. In this study, it is aimed to give some information about Chilopoda species in the city of Eskişehir.

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References


