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Morphologie, Verbreitung und Systematik der Schlanknatter *Platyceps najadum* (Eichwald, 1831) (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubrinae)

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Morphology, distribution, and systematics of the Slender racer *Platyceps najadum* (Eichwald, 1831) (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubrinae). - External, dentition, vertebra, and hemipenis characters as well as distribution data of *Platyceps najadum* (Eichwald) were examined. The species is found from the Adria to the Kopet Dag, Turkmenistan, and extends at least as far south as the lower Euphrates Valley and the Zagros range in Iran. The number of supralabials as well as certain details of dorsal colouration and scale row reduction pattern differ between western and eastern populations. In the latter, subcaudal counts are highly variable. Ventral scales show remarkable geographic variation. Eichwald's racer is polytypic. *P. n. dahlii* (Schinz) from Europe and western Anatolia qualitatively differs in the number of supralabials, dorsal scale reduction pattern, and dorsal colouration vis-à-vis the nominate subspecies from eastern Turkey and adjacent areas including the Caucasus. Populations from Rhodes and the Near East (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq) are difficult to classify. So far, *P. n. albitemporalis* (Darevskij & Orlov) and *P. n. atayevi* (Tunijev & Šammakov) are only known on the basis of their type series from SE Azerbajdžan and the western Kopet Dag, respectively. *Coluber* (s.l.) *schmidtleri* Schätti & McCarthy is considered a subspecies of *P. najadum*. The *P. najadum* group including *P. collaris* (Müller) differs from congeneric taxa in the number of apical pits as well as in COI and 12S rDNA gene sequences.

Keywords: *Platyceps najadum* - morphology - distribution - systematics - *P. n. albitemporalis* comb. n. - *P. n. atayevi* - *P. n. dahlii* - *P. n. schmidtleri* comb. n. - COI - 12S rRNA.

New species and records of Psocoptera (Insecta) from Kyrgyzstan

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New species and records of Psocoptera (Insecta) from Kyrgyzstan. - Eleven species of Psocoptera are recorded for Kyrgyzstan, raising the number known from that country to twelve. Two species are described as new, one in the genus *Asiopsocus* Günther and the other in the genus *Mesopsocus* Kolbe. The biogeographic affinities of the psocid fauna are discussed. They are primarily with the eastern European steppe shrub and grassland fauna. A key to the known species of *Asiopsocus* is included.

Keywords: Kyrgyzstan - Insecta - psocids - Psocoptera - systematics - biogeography.

A new endogaic ground beetle from eastern Spain: *Typhlocharis gonzaloi* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Anillini)

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A new endogaic ground beetle from eastern Spain: *Typhlocharis gonzaloi* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Anillini). - Based on specimens captured in B-horizon calcareous soils the new species *Typhlocharis gonzaloi* sp. n. (type locality: La Heredad, Pego, Alicante Province, Spain) is described and its morphological features compared with the features of members of the *T. diecki*-group, to which it is assigned.

Keywords: Coleoptera - Carabidae - Trechinae - Anillini - *Typhlocharis gonzaloi* sp. n. - Alicante - Spain - Iberian Peninsula.

A review of six linyphiid spiders described from China by Dr E. Schenkel (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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A review of six linyphiid spiders described from China by Dr E. Schenkel (Araneae: Linyphiidae). - According to Platnick's catalogue (2004) seven of the sixteen linyphiid spiders described from China by Dr E. Schenkel have not been re-examined since their original descriptions. This paper gives new information about them, except for *Lepthyphantes kansuensis* Schenkel, 1936, the type material of which could not be located. *Erigone amdoensis* Schenkel, 1963 and *E. changchunensis* Zhu & Wen, 1980 are herein regarded as junior synonyms of *E. sinensis* Schenkel, 1936. A new genus, *Denisiphantes*, is erected for *Lepthyphantes denisi* Schenkel, 1963. *Lepthyphantes bonneti* Schenkel, 1963, which was transferred to *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992 by Saaristo & Tanasevitch (2000), is here transferred to *Tchatkalophantes* Tanasevitch, 2001, and *Lepthyphantes riyueshanensis* Zhu & Li, 1983 is placed in its synonymy. Furthermore, *Tmeticus yunnanensis* Schenkel, 1963 is regarded as a junior synonym of *Hylyphantes graminicola* (Sundevall, 1830), while *Perimonoides potanini* Schenkel, 1963 is regarded as a nomen dubium. Besides *Hylyphantes graminicola*, all remaining valid species treated in this paper are redescribed and illustrated.

Keywords: Araneae - taxonomy - Linyphiidae - China - E. Schenkel.

***Astyanax tumbayaensis*, a new species from northwestern Argentina highlands (Characiformes: Characidae) with a key to the Argentinean species of the genus and comments on their distribution**

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***Astyanax tumbayaensis*, a new species from northwestern Argentina highlands (Characiformes: Characidae) with a key to the Argentinean species of the genus and comments on their distribution.** - A new species of the characid genus *Astyanax* is described from a man-made small channel connected with the Río Grande basin, in Jujuy Province, northwestern Argentina. This species can be distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: body relatively high (39.2-45.3% SL); head short and heavy (24.0-26.7% SL); snout very short (16.1-20.8% HL); eye small (28.9-35.0% HL); interorbital very wide (38.8-44.1% HL); mouth sub-superior; maxilla short with 1-2 teeth; iii-v, 19-22 anal fin rays; 33-36 perforated scales on the lateral line, and a distinctive color pattern, consisting in a reticulated body, with dorsal, pelvic, anal, and caudal fins with dark margins. A very narrow

lateral dark stripe ending in a caudal spot, and one large vertically elongated humeral spot. In addition the males of *Astyanax tumbayaensis* have bony hooks in the dorsal, pelvic, anal and caudal fins. A key for Argentinean species of *Astyanax* is provided. The primary traits of the distribution of species in the country are discussed, with reference to the main basins and some zoogeographically important localities.

Keywords: Ostariophysi - biodiversity - *Astyanax* - taxonomy - new species - distribution - northern Argentina.

Badger *Meles meles* setts in the Swiss Jura Mountains: characteristics and utilization patterns

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Badger *Meles meles* setts in the Swiss Jura Mountains: characteristics and utilization patterns. - Sett characteristics and utilization patterns by badgers *Meles meles* were investigated in a central European mountainous area. Two study areas located at the foothill and on the mountain top respectively were compared. Data on diurnal resting sites were provided by locating daily eight radio-collared badgers in the lowland area and three radio-tagged individuals in the mountain area. In both areas, main setts were preferentially located in the forest, and badgers avoided open habitat for their outlier setts. Distance to nearest house was not different for lowland and mountain main and outlier setts. Badgers used a mean of 6 (± 1.7) and 4.1 (± 2.4) different setts in the mountain and in the plain, respectively. Seasonal variation in sett use was observed in both areas. For instance, mountain badgers rested predominantly in outlier setts during summer. The number of consecutive days badgers used a same resting site before moving to another one was lower in summer than in other seasons.

Keywords: European badger - *Meles meles* - sett use - mountainous habitat - Switzerland.

Two new soil-dwelling psocids (Psocoptera: Trogiidae and Pachytroctidae) from the islands of St Helena and Madagascar

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Two new soil-dwelling psocids (Psocoptera: Trogiidae and Pachytroctidae) from the islands of St Helena and Madagascar. - Two new apterous species of Psocoptera (Insecta) are described and illustrated, each belonging to a new genus: *Helenatropos abrupta* gen. n., sp. n. (female) (Trogiidae) from a semidesertic biotope on the mid-Atlantic island of St Helena, and *Thoracotroctes spinifer* gen. n., sp. n. (male) (Pachytroctidae) from the endemic Didiereaceae vegetation in southern Madagascar. The systematic positions of the new genera within their

families are discussed and a new subfamily is defined for *Thoracotroctes* gen. n.: Thoracotroctinae subfam. n. A key to the subfamilies of Pachytroctidae is provided.

Keywords: Insecta - Psocodea - Trogiomorpha - Troctomorpha - new subfamily - new genus - new species - soil fauna - thoracic morphology.

**Canadian species of the *Zyras* group of genera and review of the types from America north of Mexico
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)**

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Canadian species of the *Zyras* group of genera and review of the types from America north of Mexico (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae). - A review of the Canadian species of the *Zyras* Stephens group of genera is presented including new diagnoses, distribution maps, colour habitus images and genital illustrations. Colour habitus images, genital line illustrations and a key are provided for all valid species from America north of Mexico. Nearctic *Zyras*, formerly regarded in a broad sense (*sensu lato*), is treated here in a restricted sense, and a new classification is proposed to accommodate species from the Nearctic region. Five genera are recognized: *Apalonia* Casey (1 species), *Myrmoecia* Mulsant & Rey (2 species); *Zyras* (*s. str.*) Stephens (3 species); *Pella* Stephens (9 species); and *Platyusa* Casey (1 species) [**reinstated**]. Types of *Z. flavicornis* Solsky were not located and the species is considered as *insertae sedis* and is not included in descriptions or the key. Sixteen *Zyras*-related species are recognized in America north of Mexico, nine of which occur in Canada. Three species represent new Canadian records (NCR), four represent new provincial records (NPR) and five new state records (NSR). Four new synonymies are established, with the second name being valid: *Apalonia divisa* Casey = *A. seticornis* Casey; *Myrmedonia cremastogastris* Wasman = *Pella loricata* (Casey); *Zyras* (*s. str.*) *pseudohaworthi* Klimaszewski = *Z. (s. str.) obliquus* (Casey); and *Myrmedonia schwarzi* Wasman = *Z. (s. str.) planifer* (Casey).

Keywords: Aleocharinae - Canada - Coleoptera - Lomechusini - North America - Staphylinidae.

Redescription of two cestodes (Eucestoda: Proteocephalidea) parasitic in *Phractocephalus hemioliopus* (Siluriformes) from the Amazon and erection of *Scholzia* gen. n.

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Redescription of two cestodes (Eucestoda: Proteocephalidea), parasitic in *Phractocephalus hemioliopus* (Siluriformes) from the Amazon and erection of *Scholzia* gen. n. - *Scholzia emarginata* (Diesing, 1850) comb. nov. [synonyms: *Tetrabothrium emarginatum* Diesing, 1850; *Nomimoscolex emarginatus* (Diesing, 1850) Rego *et al.*, 1999; *Myzophorus pirarara* Woodland, 1935; *Nomimoscolex pirarara* (Woodland, 1935); *Proteocephalus pirarara* (Woodland, 1935) de Chambrier & Vaucher, 1997) is redescribed on the basis of the type series of *M. pirarara* and newly-collected material from the siluriform fish *Phractocephalus hemioliopus* in the Amazon River, Brazil. The new monotypic genus *Scholzia* gen. n. differs from the remaining genera of the subfamily Proteocephalidae by (1) the morphology of the scolex, (2) strobilar features such as the presence of four posterior lobes forming a velum, (3) the ovary and the vitellaria medullary with cortical projections into the velum, and (4) the vitelline follicles posteriorly converging medially at the ovarian level. *Proteocephalus hemiolioperti* de Chambrier & Vaucher, 1997 [synonyms: *Myzophorus woodlandi* Rego, 1984; *Nomimoscolex woodlandi* (Rego, 1984) Rego & Pavanelli, 1992]) is redescribed on the basis of the type series of *M. woodlandi* and newly-collected material from the same host and locality. The morphology and distribution of microtriches of some areas of the body surface of both species are studied and compared. Three types of microtriches were observed in *S. emarginata* and 2 types of microtriches in *P. hemiolioperti*. The distribution of microtriches analysed was not useful to discriminate genera but it may be useful as a supplementary character to distinguish species.

Keywords: Eucestoda - Proteocephalidea - *Scholzia* gen. n. - *Tetrabothrium emarginatum* - *Myzophorus pirarara* - *Myzophorus woodlandi* - *Proteocephalus hemiolioperti* - *Phractocephalus hemioliopus* - Amazon - microtriches.

Redescription of *Ornithostrongylus fariai* Travassos, 1914, type species of the genus *Ornithostrongylus* Travassos, 1914, and of *O. salobrensis* Travassos, 1941 (Nematoda, Trichostrongylina, Heligmosomoidea), both parasites of Columbidae from Paraguay

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Redescription of *Ornithostrongylus fariai* Travassos, 1914, type species of the genus *Ornithostrongylus* Travassos, 1914 and of *O. salobrensis* Travassos, 1941 (Nematoda, Trichostrongylina, Heligmosomoidea), both parasites of Columbidae from Paraguay. - *O. fariai* Travassos, 1914, type species of the genus *Ornithostrongylus* and *O. salobrensis* Travassos, 1941, described from *Leptoptila* spp. in Brazil, are redescribed on the basis of specimens collected in *Leptoptila verreauxi* caught in Paraguay. The synlophe has a variable pattern in the anterior part of the body in both sexes and in the posterior part of the female body. Lateral alae are present along the anterior third of the body in *O. fariai* and in the anterior quarter in *O. salobrensis*. In *O. fariai*, the number of cuticular ridges is 14 from the middle of the body to the posterior end. In *O. salobrensis*, the number of ridges is 14 in the middle of the body in the male and 10 in the female; in the posterior quarter of the body, the male has 8 ridges and the female lacks ridges behind the vulva.

Keywords: Nematoda - Heligmosomoidea - Ornithostrongylidae - Ornithostrongylinae - *Ornithostrongylus* - Columbiform birds - Paraguay.