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Bothropolys obtusodentatus sp.n., a new lithobiid species (Lithobiomorpha: Lithobiidae) from southwestern China

Bothropolys obtusodentatus sp.n., новый вид костянок (Lithobiomorpha: Lithobiidae) из Юго-Западного Китая

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ABSTRACT. A new lithobiid species, *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n., is described and illustrated from the Yintiaoling National Nature Reserve in Wuxi County, Chongqing Municipality, southwestern China. The new species is primarily compared with *B. shansiensis* Takakuwa, 1949, from the Hebei and Shanxi provinces, P.R. China, *B. yoshidai* Takakuwa, 1939, from the Hubei and Fujian provinces, China, as well as Japan and North Korea, and *B. rugosus* (Meinert, 1872), widely distributed in China, but it can easily be distinguished by its porodonts lying posterolateral and adjacent to the lateralmost tooth, Tömösváry's organ approximately equal to the adjoining ocelli, TT 1, 2, 3, 4 being devoid of wrinkles, the posterior angles of TT 4, 6 and 7 rounded, the lack of posterior accessory spurs on legs 14, and the first article of the female gonopods showing 4+4 small coniform spurs.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Дано иллюстрированное описание нового вида костянок, *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n., из Национального заповедника Йинтяолин в графстве Вуцзи (муниципалитет Чонкин, Юго-Западный Китай). Новый вид сравним, прежде всего, с *B. shansiensis* Takakuwa, 1949, из провинций Хебей и Шаньси (Китай), но легко отличим своими породонтами, лежащими сзади и сбоку близ самого бокового зуба, органом Темешвари примерно равным по размеру близлежащим глазкам, округлыми задними углами тергитов 4, 6 и 7, и первым члеником гонопода самки с 4+4 мелкими шинкообразными шпорами.

Introduction

Wood [1862] established the genus *Bothropolys* Wood, 1862, based on three North American species. Of them, Crabill [1955] chose *Bothropolys nobilis* Wood, 1862 as type species, the typification being confirmed by Jeekel [1963]. Subsequent scholars found that *B. nobilis* was a junior synonym of *Lithobius multidentatus* Newport, 1844 [Eason, 1972]. Currently, the "World Centipede Catalog" [Bonato *et al*., 2016] lists 31 species described in *Bothropolys*, mostly from North America and East Asia, and largely occurring in temperate forests, both coniferous and broadleaved, from lowland sites up to 2300 m a.s.l.; *Bothropolys* species are sometimes found in caves as well, but no specialized troglobionts are known [Zapparoli *et al*., 2011].

Bothropolys is characterized by the following combination of characters: Body length 15–40 mm. Antenna with *ca* 20 articles. Ocelli 1+10 to 1+40. Forcipular coxosternal teeth usually 5+5 to 11+11. Tergites with or without posterior triangular projections. Female gonopods with tridentate claws and 2+2 to 4+4 spurs [Zapparoli *et al.*, 2011].

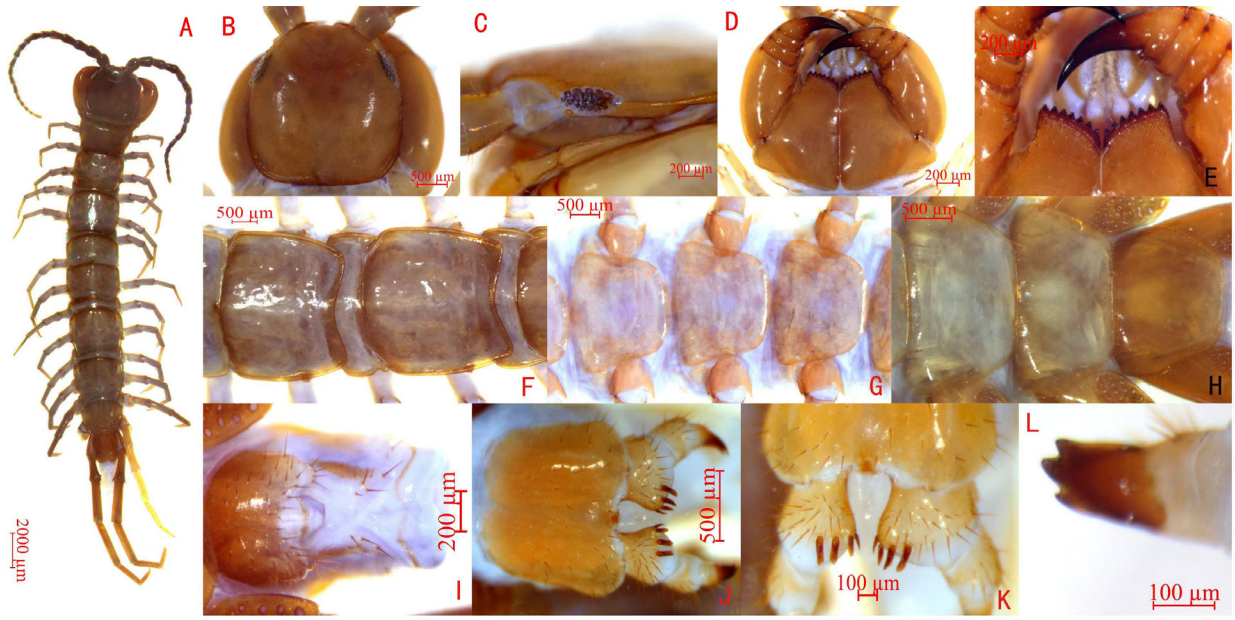

Fig. 1. *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n., female holotype (A–F, H, J–L) and male paratype (G, I): A — habitus, dorsal view; B — cephalic plate, dorsal view; C — ocelli and Tömösváry's organ (To), lateral view; D — forcipular coxosternite, ventral view; E — forcipular coxosternite, zoomed ventral view; F — TT 7–11; G — SS 10–12; H — SS 13–15; I — posterior segments and gonopods, ventral view; J — posterior segments and gonopods, ventral view; K — reproductive spurs of the first article of gonopods; L — tridentate apical claw of gonopods, dorsal view.

Рис. 1. *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n., голотип самка (A–F, H, J–L) и паратип самец (G, I): A — общий вид, сверху; B — головная пластина, сверху; C — глазки и орган Темешвари (To), сбоку; D — коксостернит ногочелюсти, снизу; E — коксостернит ногочелюсти, снизу увеличено; F — TT 7–11; G — SS 10–12; H — SS 13–15; I — задние сегменты и гоноподы, снизу; J — задние сегменты и гоноподы, снизу; K — репродуктивные шпоры первого членика гоноподов; L — трехзубый вершинный коготь гоноподов, сверху.

For nearly half a century, only Park *et al.* [2016] conducted mitochondrial DNA research on unnamed species of *Bothropolys*; Ganske *et al*. [2020] studied the sequence fragments of 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, 16S rRNA, and COI for four species of *Bothropolys*. Chinese scholars [Wang *et al*., 1996; Ma *et al*., 2008a, b, 2014; Ma, 2012; Qin *et al*., 2017] have published two new records and three new species, reviewed and listed all species of *Bothropolys* in China, bringing the number of *Bothropolys* species known from China to a total of ten. It is therefore evident that the taxonomy of the genus *Bothropolys* is relatively poorly advanced both domestically and internationally, with most studies focusing on external morphological descriptions and seldom addressing molecular sequence data, especially in molecular phylogenetic analyses. The present study deals with the description and illustration of a new species of the genus *Bothropolys* from the Yintiaoling National Nature Reserve in Wuxi County, Chongqing Municipality, southwestern China.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected by hand under leaf litter or stones and preserved in 75% ethanol. Illustrations and measurements were prepared using a ZEISS SteREO Discovery. V20 microscope equipped with an Abbe drawing tube and an ocular micrometer and Axiocam 512 colour. The colour in the description is based on specimens fixed in 75% ethanol. The body length is measured from the anterior margin of the cephalic plate to the posterior end of the postpedal tergite. The terminology of the external anatomy follows Bonato *et al.* [2010]. The type specimens are deposited in the collection of the Institute of Myriapodology, School of Life Sciences, Hengshui University, Hengshui, China (HUSLSIM).

The following abbreviations are used in the text and in the tables: a — anterior; C — coxa; F — femur; m — median; P — prefemur; p — posterior; S, SS — sternite, sternites; T, TT — tergite, tergites; Ti — tibia; Tr — trochanter; Ta — tarsus.

Taxonomy

Order Lithobiomorpha Pocock, 1895
Family Lithobiidae Newport, 1844
Genus *Bothropolys* Wood, 1862
Bothropolys obtusodentatus Gu, Pei et Ma, **sp.n.**
Fig. 1A–L.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype ♀ (YTL-B-24-01) (Fig. 1A), from Linkouzi management and protection station, Yintiaoling National Nature Reserve in Wuxi County, Chongqing Municipality, Southwest China, 31°28′27.61″N, 109°52′40.57″E, *ca* 1233 m a.s.l., 24 July 2024, S. Pei, H. Ma leg. Paratypes 1 ♀ (YTL-B-24-02), 1 ♂ (YTL-B-24-03), same data as holotype.

DIAGNOSIS. In accordance with grouping the species in the large genus *Bothropolys* that is presently known to comprise 34 species worldwide, *B. obtusodentatus* sp.n. differs from other congeners in having the antennae composed of 18–22, commonly 20+20 articles, ocelli 17–29 on each side, arranged in five irregular rows, with the posterior ocellus the largest, Tömösváry's organ approximately equal to the adjacent ocelli; 7+7 coxosternal teeth, porodonts lying posterolateral and adjacent to the lateralmost tooth, with a slight bulge at base; the posterior angles of TT 9, 11 and 13 with acute triangular projections; coxal pore formula 11–27, irregularly arranged.

The female gonopods are with 4+4 moderately small coniform spurs, the apical claw of the third article being tridentate. The male gonopods are short and wide, flat, with 2–5 long setae, apically slightly sclerotized.

NAME. The specific name emphasizes the anterior margin of the coxosternite being obtuse triangular teeth.

DESCRIPTION. Body (Fig. 1A) 7.01–24.40 mm long, cephalic plate 2.17–3.03 mm long, 2.29–2.94 mm wide.

Coloration: Antennae dark brown to yellow-brown, tergites brown to greyish brown and then to yellow-brown, TT 1, 2, 14 and 15 darker. Cephalic plate dark brown, pleural region grey white, sternites greyish brown to brown. Distal part of forcipules dark brown, basal and proximal parts of forcipules and forcipular coxosternite grey-brown, SS 14 and 15 dark yellow-brown. All legs gradually from greyish brown to pale yellow-brown, with distal part of tarsi being darker.

Antennae with 8–22 articles, usually 20+20 articles. First antennal article approximately equal in length and width, the remaining articles obviously longer than wide, distalmost article still significantly longer than wide, 2.91–4.24 times as long as wide (Fig. 1A); abundant setae on antennal surfaces, fewer on basal articles, gradually and increasingly dense to approximately fourth article, then more or less constant.

Cephalic plate smooth, convex, approximately equal to length and width; tiny setae emerging from pores scattered very sparsely over entire surface, whole surface of cephalic plate covered with fine hexagonal mesh; frontal marginal ridge with a shallow anterior median furrow; short to long setae very sparsely scattered along marginal ridge of cephalic plate. Lateral marginal ridge discontinuous, posterior margin continuous, straight, evidently wider than lateral marginal ridge, especially in the middle (Fig. 1B).

Ocelli 17–29, oval ocelli on each side, arranged in 3–5 irregular rows, commonly 5 irregular rows, posterior ocellus the largest. Ventral ocelli moderately smaller than dorsal ones, domed, translucent and usually black (Fig. 1C).

Tömösváry's organ (Fig. 1C-To) close to ocelli, situated at anterolateral margin of cephalic plate, surrounding sclerotized area moderately wide, approximately equal to adjoining ocelli.

Coxosternite subtrapezoidal (Fig. 1D, E), anterior margin wide, lateral margins approximately equal to medial margins; median diastema moderately deep, a slightly wider U shape; whole surface of coxosternite covered with fine hexagonal mesh, anterior margin with 7+7 obtuse triangular teeth; porodonts slightly thicker and short, lying posterolateral and adjacent to lateralmost tooth, with a slight bulge at base (Fig. 1D, E); long scattered setae on ventral side of coxosternite, longer setae near dental margin.

TT 1, 2, 3, 4 without wrinkles, after T 4 the tergites with wrinkles, dorsum slightly convex; short to long setae emerging from pores scattered sparsely over entire surface, near margin with few long setae. T1 narrower posterolaterally than anterolaterally, generally inverted trapezoidal; cephalic plate wider than T 1 and T 3, T1 wider than T 3. Lateral marginal ridges of all tergites continuous. Posterior marginal ridges of TT 1 and 3 continuous, posterior marginal ridges of TT 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 discontinuous. Posterior margin of T 1 feebly concave, posterior margin of TT 3 and 5 moderately concave, posterior margin of TT 8, 10, 12 and 14 concave. Posterior angles of TT 2, 4, 6 and 7 rounded, posterior angles of TT 9, 11 and 13 with acute triangular projections, posterior angles of tergites without triangular projections.

Posterior side of sternites narrower than anterior one, generally inverted trapezoidal, smooth; setae emerging from very sparsely scattered pores on surface and at lateral margin, with more setae at both posterior angles; gradually and increasingly dense to approximately S 10 (♀) or S 7 (♂); whole surface of sternites covered with fine hexagonal mesh.

Legs relative thicker and longer, tarsi well-defined on legs 1–15. From short to long setae very sparsely scattered over the surfaces of coxa, trochanter, prefemur, femur and tibia of legs 1–13; more setae on tarsal surfaces, especially ventrally, setae on dorsal and ventral surfaces slightly longer than anterior and posterior ones, some obviously thicker setae arranged in one row on ventral surfaces of tarsi-1, in two rows on ventral surfaces of tarsi-2 of legs 1–13; legs 14 and 15 are thicker and longer than other legs, with strongly scattered setae in upper part and no seta on tarsus. All legs with moderately long and curved claws; legs 1–13 with anterior and posterior accessory spurs, anterior accessory spurs moderately thinner and shorter, forming a moderately small angle with claw, posterior accessory spurs slightly longer and more robust, forming a comparatively large angle with claw; lacking posterior accessory spurs of legs 14 and 15. Legs 14 and 15 longer and thicker than anterior legs (♀, ♂), ♂ legs 15 moderately thicker and stronger than those of ♀; dense glandular pores on inner sides of prefemur to tibia of legs 14 and 15. Ta2, 5.03–5.27 times longer than wide, Ta2 55.0%–61.0% length of Ta1 on legs 15 (♀); Ta2, 3.17–5.29 times longer than wide, Ta2 53.0%–56.4% length of Ta1 on legs 15 (♂). Leg plectrotaxy as given in Tables 1 and 2.

Coxal pores slightly oval or round, 20–40 irregularly arranged in legs 12–14, 11–27 irregularly arranged in legs 15; interior ocelli moderately smaller than exterior ones. Coxal pore-field set in a relatively shallow groove, its fringe with a

Table 1. Leg plectrotaxy of *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n. (females).
Таблица 1. Плектротаксия ног *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n. (самки).

legs	dorsal					ventral				
	C	Tr	P	F	Ti	C	Tr	P	F	Ti
1–5			amp	ap	a			mp	amp	am
6–9			amp	ap	a(p)			mp	amp	am
10			amp	ap	ap			(a)mp	amp	am
11			amp	ap	ap			amp	amp	am
12–13	a		amp	p	p		m	amp	amp	am
14	a		amp	p	(p)	am	m	amp	am(p)	a
15	a		amp	p		am	m	amp	am	a

Letters in parentheses indicate variable spines.

Table 2. Leg plectrotaxy of *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n. (male).
Таблица 2. Плектротаксия ног *Bothropolys obtusodentatus* sp.n. (самец).

Legs	dorsal					ventral				
	C	Tr	P	F	Ti	C	Tr	P	F	Ti
1			amp	ap	a			mp	amp	(a)m
2–5			amp	ap	a			mp	amp	am
6–9			amp	ap	ap			mp	amp	am
10			amp	ap	ap			amp	a(m)p	am
11	a		amp	ap	ap		(m)	amp	amp	am
12	a		amp	p	p		m	amp	amp	am
13	a		amp	p	p	a	m	amp	amp	am
14	a		amp	p	p	am	m	amp	am	a
15	a		amp	p		am	m	amp	am	a

Letters in parentheses indicate variable spines.

slight prominence and moderately long setae sparsely scattered over its surface.

♀. S 15 approximate hexagon, posterior angles rounded, posteromedially straight. Moderately long to short setae relatively densely scattered on S 15 surface. Surface of lateral sternal margin of genital segment well-chitinized, posterior margin of genital sternite deeply concave between condyles of gonopods, except for a small, median, nearly diamond-shaped bulge, lateral and posteromedian sides sloping backwards.

Relatively long setae very sparsely scattered over ventral surface of genital segment, slightly more setae in posterior part, especially along posterior edge. Gonopods: first article fairly broad, bearing 22–25 moderately long setae, arranged in five irregular rows, with 4+4 small coniform spurs, inner spurs slightly smaller than outer ones (Fig. 1J, K]; second article with 17–20 long setae ventrally, arranged in four irregular rows; third article with 8–10 long setae ventrally, arranged in two irregular rows, with a tridentate apical claw (Fig. 1L).

♂. S 15 posterior margin narrower than anterior one, posteromedially straight, posterior angles rounded, generally an inverted trapezoid, sparsely covered with long to short setae, those at edges being longer; sternite of genital segment evidently smaller than in ♀, usually sclerotized; posterior margin deeply concave between gonopods, without medial bulge. Short to long setae equally scattered over ventral surface of genital segment. Gonopods short and wide, flat, with 2–5 long setae, apically slightly sclerotized (Fig. 1I).

HABITAT. The specimens here studied were collected under the deciduous leaves of pine trees around a mountain road.

Discussion

Morphologically, the new species seems to be especially similar to *B. shansiensis* Takakuwa, 1949, from the Hebei and Shanxi provinces, China, with which it shares the antennae with 20+20 articles, 7+7 prosternal teeth, the posterior angles of TT 9, 11 and 13 with obvious triangular projections; legs 1–13 with anterior and posterior accessory spurs. However, the new species can easily be distinguished from *B. shansiensis* by the following characters: porodonts lying posterolateral and adjacent to the lateralmost tooth, *vs* porodonts between the second and three outer teeth in *B. shansiensis*; Tömösváry's organ approximately equal to the adjoining ocelli, *vs* smaller than the adjoining ocelli in *B. shansiensis*; the posterior angles of TT 4, 6 and 7 rounded, *vs* posterior angles of T 4 bluntly triangular, posterior angles of TT 6 and 7 sharply triangular in *B. shansiensis*; the first article of female gonopods with 4+4 small coniform spurs, *vs* 2+2 small coniform spurs in *B. shansiensis*.

In morphological characters, the new species seems to also be very similar to *B. yoshidai* Takakuwa, 1939, from the Hubei and Fujian provinces, China, as well as Japan and North Korea, with which it shares the antennae with 20+20 articles, the ocelli arranged in commonly 5 irregular rows, and the posterior angles of TT 9, 11 and 13 are with obvious triangular projections, legs 1–13 with anterior and posterior accessory spurs. However, the new species can easily be distinguished from *B. yoshidai* by the following characters: porodonts lying posterolateral and adjacent to the lateralmost tooth, *vs* porodonts located between the third and fourth outer teeth in *B. yoshidai*; Tömösváry's organ approximately equal to the adjoining ocelli, *vs* smaller than the adjoining ocelli in *B. yoshidai*; the posterior angles of TT 4, 6 and 7 rounded, *vs* posterior angles of TT 4, 6 and 7 obviously triangular in *B. yoshidai*; lacking posterior accessory spurs of legs 14, *vs* anterior and posterior accessory spurs of legs 14 present in *B. yoshidai*.

In addition, the new species seems to be quite similar to *B. rugosus* (Meinert, 1872), too, a form widely distributed in China, with which it shares the antennae with 20+20 articles, 7+7 prosternal teeth, porodonts lying posterolateral and adjacent to the lateralmost tooth, the posterior angles of TT 9, 11 and 13 with obvious triangular projections; legs 1–13 with anterior and posterior accessory spurs. However, the new species can readily be distinguished from *B. rugosus* by the following characters: Tömösváry's organ approximately equal to the adjoining ocelli, *vs* larger than the adjoining ocelli in *B. rugosus*; TT 1, 2, 3, 4 being devoid of wrinkles, *vs* wrinkled in *B. rugosus*; posterior angles of TT 6 and 7

rounded, *vs* posterior angles of T 6 feebly triangular, and T 7 weakly triangular in *B*. *rugosus*; anterior accessory spurs of legs 14 and 15 present, *vs* accessory spurs of legs 14 and 15 lacking in *B*. *rugosus*.

Compliance with ethical standards

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval: No ethical issues were raised during our research.

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