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

# Мириаподологическое наследие Вячеслава Степановича Муралевича (1881—1942?)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Myriapoda, таксономия, историография, библиография, Зоологический музей МГУ.

To the 140th Birthday of Vyacheslav Stepanovich Muralewicz

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 мириаподолога, 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 современных статусах.

Vyacheslav Stepanovich (= Stefanovich as a variant) Muralewicz (Вячеслав Степанович (вариант отчества Стефанович) Муралевич (December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1881, Kiev – 1942?), professor, staff member of the Zoological Museum of the Moscow University, myri-

apodologist. In 1920, he was arrested and accused for the first time by the ChK (political police, later renamed into the NKVD and then KGB) on the case of the "Tactic Centre".

Most of the information concerning the life, career and activities of V.S. Muralewicz is available in Russian on, and derived from, http://agro-archive.ru/stati/15916-muralevich-vyacheslav-stepanovich.html

### A brief biographic account

Vyacheslav Stepanovich Muralewicz 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. Boldyrev 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 Муралевич 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 "Zoologischer 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 synoptic collection of Myriapoda the ZMMU had purchased from K.W. Verhoeff as "*Scolopendra mediterranea africana* Verhoeff, det. Muralewicz", 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

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# 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 gerwaisianus (sic!) pilicornis Muralewicz, 1927

Synonym of *Cormocephalus gervaisianus* (C.L. Koch, 1841), det. A. Schileyko, synonymized by Zalesskaja & Schileyko [1991: 19].

STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 7243 (holotype).

TYPE LOCALITY. Azerbaijan, Anzov.

REMARKS. 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 6826 (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 subspinipes gastroforeata Muralewič, 1913

Synonym of *Scolopendra subspinipes* Leach, 1815, det. A. Schileyko.

STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 6844 (holotype).

TYPE LOCALITY. Philippines, Mindanao.

REMARK. The original label (old No 1267) reads: "Scolopendra subspinipes L. о-в Минданао, Филиппинские о-ва 1889" ("Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands 1899"), without mention of a new subspecies on the original label.

Scolopendra conjungens Muralewič, 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 Würmli [1975: 193].

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Manchuria (i.e. Northeast China), Kuatschen-dsy in the environs of "Zundingpu"

Thereuonema bellica Muralevitsch, 1907

Junior synonym of *Thereuonema tuberculata* (Wood, 1862), synonymized by Würmli [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 oxypyga Muralevitsch, 1911

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, "Tauria" (Crimea), Pheodosia.

REMARKS. Most probably "S. oxypyga" 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. oxypyga (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, Gjamytschi, Scach Island in Lake Urmiya ("Gjamytschi (Schach-Insel) auf dem Urmiasee in Persien").

REMARK. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "Generic assignment uncertain, requiring restudy".

Lithobius anodus aberrans Muralewicz, 1926

Synonym of *Harpolithobius anodus* (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 Muralevitch 1929".

Lithobius asper Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. ZMMU Nos Rc 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 Muralevitch 1929".

Lithobius (Monotarsobius) caninensis Muralewitsch,

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. Georgia, Kvemo Kartli region, Manglisi townlet ("Manglis, 1900").

Lithobius colchicus Muralewitsch, 1907

STATUS. ZMMU Nos Rc 8124. 8126–8130 (syntypes). TYPE LOCALITY. ?

RANGE. Georgia (Kakheti region, Lagodekhi), Russia: Vladikavkaz, Stavropol.

REMARK. Bonato *et al.* [2016] mentioned the type locality as "Russia: Wladikaukas".

Lithobius fallax Muralewicz, 1906

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Kanin Peninsula, Olkhovka River near mouth of Mezen' River ("р. Ольховка близ устья р. Мезени").

REMARK. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "Taxonomic status uncertain".

Lithobius fasciatus Muralewitch, 1929 STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 8133 (syntypes). TYPE LOCALITY.?

REMARKS. The original label (in pencil) reads "Polybothrus fasciatus" without any other information. An old ZMMU inventory book reads "Коллекция ("collection"), 7 (specimens)". Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "Taxonomic status uncertain".

Lithobius ferganensis tridens Muralewicz, 1926 STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Armenia, Chagare.

REMARKS. Original description (1926) does not contain any information on the type locality. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "described as n. sp. also in Muralevitch 1929".

Lithobius foviceps Muralewicz, 1927 STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 8125 (syntypes).

TYPE LOCALITY. Azerbaijan, Gebele region, Kamerowan.

REMARK. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "described as n. sp. also in Muralevitch 1929".

Lithobius ignotus Muralewitsch, 1906

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Kanin Peninsula, Olkhovka River.

Lithobius litoralis Muralewitsch, 1906

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Kanin Peninsula, near Keretsky Cape.

REMARK. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "non *Lithobius litoralis* L. Koch, 1867; taxonomic status uncertain".

Lithobius lobosus Muralewitsch + Lithobius lobosus ruficeps Muralewitsch

STATUS. ZMMU Nos Rc 8118-8123 (type series).

TYPE LOCALITY. ?

RANGE. Russia, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Teberda, Belaja River ("за (рекой ?) Белой"); Armenia, Sevanavank Monastery (?) ("Монастырь Св. Севанга"); Abkhazia, Sukhum.

REMARK. Apparently a nomen nudum, absent from the literature.

Lithobius (Archilithobius) megapus Muralewitsch, 1907

Transferred to the genus *Hessebius* by Zalesskaja [1978]. STATUS. ZMMU No Rc 8131 (syntype).

TYPE LOCALITY. Azerbaijan: Ssi-Doba (Lenkoran region) and Lenkoran.

Lithobius niger Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Iran, "Amir-Abad, südlich vom Urmiasee" (south of Lake Urmiya)

REMARK. Bonato et al. [2016] wrote: "non Lithobius niger Takakuwa, 19??".

Lithobius piceus caucasica Muralewicz, 1926

Junior synionym of *Hessebius megapus* Muralevitsch, 1907, synonymized by Matic & Darabantu [1968].

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. ?

RANGE. Russia: Caucasus (Elenowka), Weli (?).

REMARK. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "described as n. sp. also in Muralevitch 1929".

Lithobius rufus Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Stavropol Province, Petrovsk. REMARK. 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 (Adajychoch).

RANGE. Russia, Caucasus (Kislowodsk; Bermamut Plateau; Wladikaukaz; Belaja River); Georgia (Kakheti region, Lagodekhi).

REMARKS. 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 Muralevitsh, 1914 STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Smolensk Region.

Lithobius verrucifer Muralewicz, 1926

STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Abkhazia, Novyi Afon.

REMARK. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "described as n. sp. also in Muralevitch 1929".

#### Geophilomorpha

Geophilus trichopus Muralewicz, 1927

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

REMARKS. Bonato *et al.* [2016] wrote: "Incertain identity. Original assignment to the genus *Geophilus* Leach, 1814 is most probably incorrect".

Pachymerium monticola Muralewicz, 1927 STATUS. Presently not found in the ZMMU collection. TYPE LOCALITY. Russia, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Teberda.

Polyporogaster tunctrorum 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 iterature.

# 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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