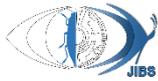


Original Article 

On the Myriapoda fauna (Chilopoda, Diplopoda) of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Azerbaijan)

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ABSTRACT. The myriapod fauna of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Azerbaijan) comprises at least 20 species: 12 species from eight genera, seven families, and three orders of Chilopoda, and eight species from eight genera, five families, and three orders of Diplopoda. Family Henicopidae Pocock, 1901, genus *Lamyctes* Meinert, 1868, and the species *L. emarginatus* (Newport, 1844) (Chilopoda) and *Syrioiulus armeniacus* Evsyukov, Golovatch, Antić, 2021 (Diplopoda) are newly recorded for the fauna of Azerbaijan. *Lithobius erythrocephalus cronebergii* Sselivanoff, 1881, *Omobrachiulus caucasicus* (Karsch, 1881), *Syrioiulus armeniacus* Evsyukov, Golovatch, Antić, 2021, and *Brachydesmus kalischewskyi* Lignau, 1915 are illustrated; the remarkable intraspecific variability of *Cryptops caucasicus* Verhoeff, 1934 and *Lithobius* cf. *coloratus* Sselivanoff, 1881 is described and illustrated. The history of studies on the Myriapoda of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is also summarized.

KEYWORDS: Biodiversity, Intraspecific variability, New records, Transcaucasia, Zangezur range

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INTRODUCTION

The Chilopoda fauna of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Azerbaijan) remains one of the least studied in the entire Transcaucasia. To date, only one centipede species, *Lithobius asper laeviceps* Zalesskaja, 1973, is known from this territory, while 40 species are known from other parts of Azerbaijan (Dyachkov 2024), 25 species are recorded from Armenia (Dyachkov 2025), and 65 species are listed in the fauna of Georgia (Kiria et al. 2023, 2024).

The Diplopoda fauna of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic also remains virtually unstudied. Previously, only three species of millipedes were known from the territory of the republic: *Propolyxenus argentifer* (Verhoeff, 1921) (Short et al. 2020), *Leptoilulus tanymorphus* (Attems, 1901) (Golovatch 2023), and *Brachydesmus kalischewskyi* Lignau, 1915 (Golovatch et al. 2016). Moreover, the fauna of diplopods in Transcaucasia is extremely rich: 103 species are known from the territory of Georgia alone (Kokhia & Golovatch 2020). During an expedition to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in 2024, specimens of insects (Pimanchikova et al. 2025), spiders, and myriapods were collected. The aim of this study is to provide new data on the myriapod fauna of this region.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material was collected by hand or forceps and preserved in 70% ethanol; deposited in ASU (abbreviations below), ZISP, and ZMS. Additional materials from ZISP were examined. Specimens were studied using Olympus® stereo microscopes in ASU (models SZX16 and BX51). Material stored in the ZMS was examined with a LOMO® MBS-10 stereo microscope and a LOMO Micmed-5 light microscope (JSC LOMO, Russia). Photographs were captured using Olympus digital cameras (models DP74 and XC50). The standardized terminology for Chilopoda follows Bonato et al. (2010). Localities are indicated as in the original labels; additional information is in square brackets.

Abbreviations: **ad.** – adult, **ASU** – Altai State University (Barnaul, Russia), **coll.** – collector, **NS** – N.Yu. Snegovaya, **YD** – Yu.V. Dyachkov, **ZISP** – Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Saint Petersburg, Russia), **ZMS** – Zoological Museum of the North Caucasian Federal University (Stavropol, Russia).

RESULTS

Phylum Arthropoda Gravenhorst, 1843

Subphylum Myriapoda Latreille, 1802

Class Chilopoda Latreille, 1817

Order Geophilomorpha Pocock, 1896

Family Dignathodontidae Cook, 1896

Genus *Henia* C.L. Koch, 1847

Henia bicarinata (Meinert, 1870)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 6 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (ASU No. 788), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49" E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Mostly the Mediterranean Region (Simaiakis et al. 2013; Dyachkov et al. 2022b; Zuev et al. 2025). Azerbaijan: Lankaran District (Samedov et al. 1976; Bababekova 1996; Dyachkov 2024) and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Family Geophilidae Leach, 1816

Genus *Clinopodes* C.L. Koch, 1847

Clinopodes caucasicus (Sselivanoff, 1884)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♂ (ASU No. 784), 83 ♂♂ (ASU No. 786), and 19 ♀♀ (ASU No. 787), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49", E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♀ (ASU No. 789), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, Unus Village, N39°00'26", E45°58'51", dry stony steppe, under stones, 1580 m, 21.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♂ (ASU No. 797), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, Lakedagh Village, inflow of river, N39°17'17", E45°50'05", under stones and in soil on river bank, 1800 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Caucasus and Eastern Anatolia (Bonato et al. 2011; Dyachkov et al. 2022b). Azerbaijan: Sheki, Agstafa, and Ganja districts (Sselivanoff 1884; Muralewicz 1907; Dyachkov 2024) and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Clinopodes escherichii (Verhoeff, 1896)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (ASU No. 792), Ordubad District,

Zangezur Mt. Range, the tract Agdere, N39°06'38", E45°54'51", meadow, under stones, 1980 m, 16–17.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♂ (ASU No. 793), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 0.6 km NE Lakedagh Village, N39°17'43", E45°50'35", dry mountain steppe near river, under stones, 1790 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD; 2 ♂♂ (ASU No. 794), 500 m NE the tract Agdere, N39°06'46", E45°55'24", bushes near stream, *Salix*, under stones, in soil, 2140 m, 17.VI.2024, coll. YD; 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (ASU No. 795), 1.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'09", E45°57'01", mountain steppe with bushes, under stones, 2050 m, 15.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♂ (ASU No. 796), 2.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'23", E45°57'42", bushes on Paragachay River bank, under stones, 2150 m, 16.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Mostly the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Bonato et al. 2011; Simaiakis et al. 2013). Azerbaijan: Lankaran district (Samedov et al. 1976; Bababekova 1996; Dyachkov et al. 2023) and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Genus *Pachymerium* C.L. Koch, 1847

Pachymerium ferrugineum (C.L. Koch, 1835)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♂ (ASU No. 737), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, Lakedagh Village, inflow of river, N39°17'17", E45°50'05", under stones and in soil on river bank, 1800 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD; 2 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000199), [Ordubad district], Ordubad c[ity], gardens, under stones, 23.II.[19]39.

Distribution. A trans-Palaeartic species (Dyachkov et al. 2022b). Azerbaijan: Kura-Araz Depression, Bilajary settlement (Baku), Lankaran District (Muralewicz 1907; Samedov et al. 1976; Bababekova 1996; Dyachkov et al. 2023; Dyachkov 2024), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Family Himantariidae Bollman, 1893

Genus *Bothriogaster* Sseliwanoff, 1879

Bothriogaster signata (Kessler, 1874)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ASU No. 736), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, Lakedagh Village, inflow of river, N39°17'17", E45°50'05", under stones and in soil on river bank, 1800 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD; 6 ♂♂ (ASU No. 739), 0.6 km NE Lakedagh Village, N39°17'43", E45°50'35", dry mountain steppe near river, under stones, 1790 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD; 12 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (ASU No. 738), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 5 km NE Unus Village, N39°02'12", E46°01'53", meadow near river bank, under stones, 2030 m, 20.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♀ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000297), Ordubad c[ity], gardens, under stones, 23.II.[19]39; 3 ♂♂ (ASU No. 683), 5.8 km NE Unus Village, N39°02'53", E46°01'51", dry mountain steppe, under stones, 2250 m, 19.VI.2024, coll. YD; 8 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (ASU No. 742), 1.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'09", E45°57'01", mountain steppe with bushes, under stones, 2050 m, 15.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♂ (ASU No. 744), 2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'19", E45°57'29", bushes near stream, under stones, in soil, 2170 m, 16.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. A Turano-Mediterranean species (Simaiakis et al. 2013; Zarei et al. 2020). Azerbaijan: Kura-Araz Depression, Lankaran District (Samedov et al. 1976; Bababekova 1996; Dyachkov 2024), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Order Lithobiomorpha Pocock, 1895

Family Henicopidae Pocock, 1901

Genus *Lamyctes* Meinert, 1868

Lamyctes emarginatus (Newport, 1844)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 5 ♀♀ (ASU No. 866), Nakhchivan City, botanical garden, 13.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Widespread as anthropochore introduction: New Zealand, Australia, Pacific Islands, Europe, the Near East, North Africa, Siberia, North America, and some records from South America (Brazil) (Hollington & Edgecombe 2004; Nefediev et al. 2016; Dyachkov et al. 2022a). Azerbaijan: Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Remarks. Family Henicopidae, genus *Lamyctes*, and the species *L. emarginatus* are new to the fauna of Azerbaijan.

Family Lithobiidae Newport, 1844

Genus *Lithobius* Leach, 1814

Lithobius asper laeviceps Zaleskaja, 1973

Material. Not examined.

Distribution. Caucasus (Zaleskaja 1978). Azerbaijan: Mountainous Garabag and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: Babek district (Zaleskaja 1973, 1978; Turbanov et al. 2016; Dyachkov 2024).

Lithobius erythrocephalus cronebergii Sselivanoff, 1881

Fig. 1

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 6 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (ASU No. 831), Nakhchivan City, botanical garden, 14.VI.2024, coll. YD; 6 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (ASU No. 832), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 0.5 km NE Lakedagh Village, N39°17'42", E45°50'29", in rotten stumps, 1780 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD; 19 ♂♂ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000276) and 14 ♀♀ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000275), Zangezur Mt. Range, Lakedagh Village, N39°17'33", E45°50'03", under stones on river bank, 1740 m, 23.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Caucasus (Zaleskaja 1978) and Yemen (Likely an anthropochore introduction – as noted by Eason in Lewis 1996). Azerbaijan: Kura-Araz Depression (Samedov et al. 1976; Bababekova 1996), “Muchan” (Zaleskaja 1972), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Remarks. The morphology of specimens corresponds well to the description given by Zaleskaja (1978). Ocelli, dental margin of forcipular coxosternite, 13th tergite, female gonopods, male tibia, and ultimate pretarsus are on Figure 1.

Lithobius cf. *coloratus* Sselivanoff, 1881

Fig. 2

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♂ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000269), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 5 km NE Unus Village, N39°02'12", E46°01'53", meadow near river bank, under stones, 2030 m, 20.VI.2024, coll. YD; 15 ♂♂ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000270) and 10 ♀♀ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000271), 500 m NE of the tract Agdere, N39°06'46", E45°55'24", bushes near stream, *Salix*, under stones, in soil, 2140 m, 17.VI.2024, coll. YD; 2 ♂♂ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000272), 2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'19", E45°57'29", bushes near stream, under stones, in soil, 2170 m, 16.VI.2024, coll. YD; 23 ♂♂ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000274) and 17 ♀♀ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000273), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49", E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ♀ (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000290), Ordubad District, Ordubad, 25.VIII.2023, coll. NS.

Distribution. *Lithobius coloratus* is known from the Caucasus (Zaleskaja 1978). Azerbaijan: Gusar, Masally, Lankaran, Astara districts (Muralewicz 1907, 1926, 1929; Zaleskaja 1972; Samedov et al. 1976; Bababekova 1996; Dyachkov 2024), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Remarks. There are some difficulties in interpreting the species *L. coloratus* Sselivanoff, 1881, *L. oblongus* Sselivanoff, 1881, and *L. viriatus* Sselivanoff, 1878 (Table 1).

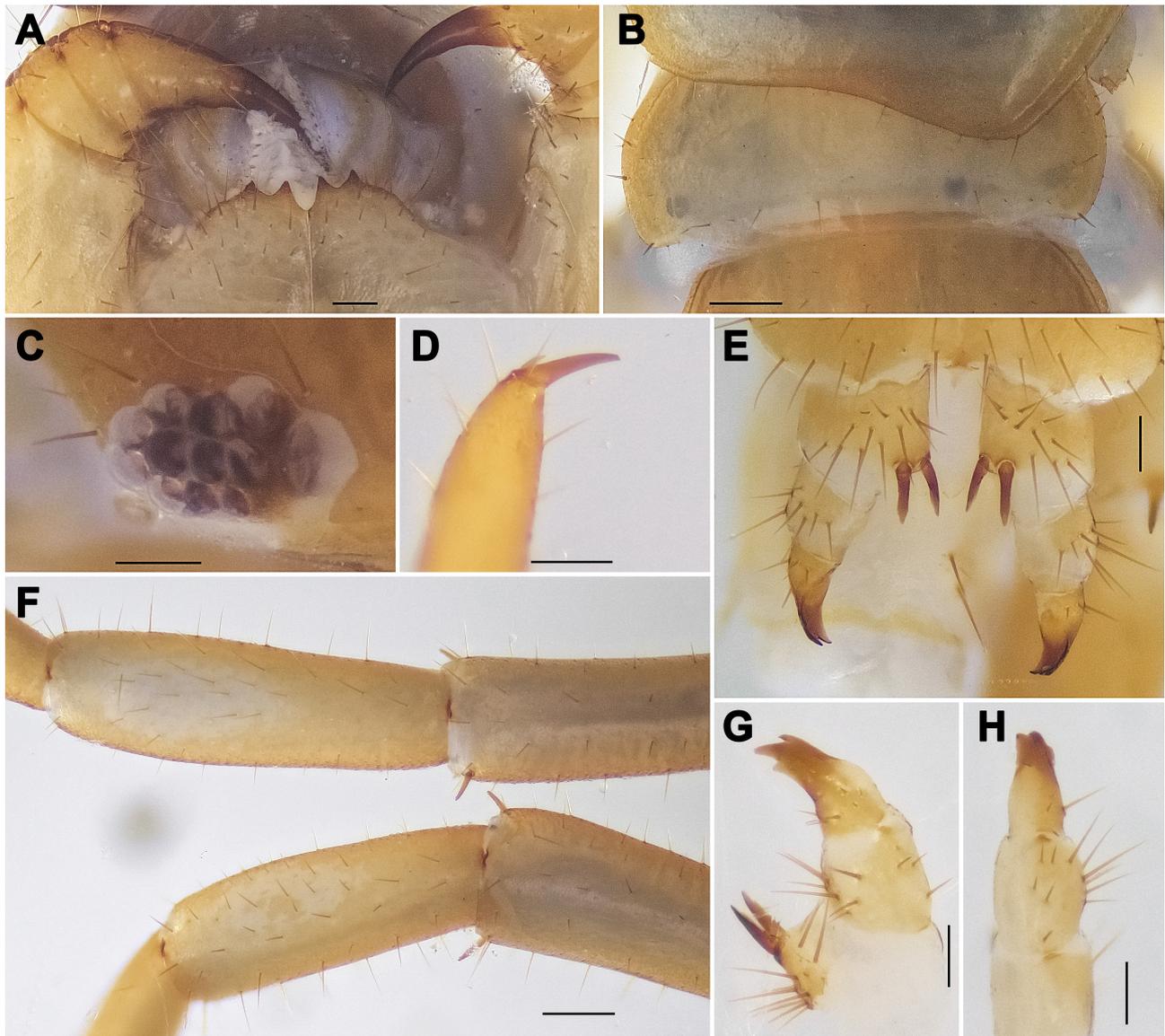


Figure 1. *Lithobius erythrocephalus cronebergii* Sselivanoff, 1881 (ASU No. 831; ♂, A, B, D, and F; ♀, C, E, G, and H): A. Dental margin of forcipular coxosternite, ventrally; B. 13th tergite, dorsally; C. Ocelli, laterally; D. Pretarsus of ultimate leg, laterally; E. Female gonopods, ventrally; F. Distal part of femora and tibiae of male ultimate legs, dorsally; G., H. Female gonopod, dorso-laterally and dorsally. Scale: 0.1 mm (A, C–E, G–H), 0.2 mm (B, F).

These species share a similar general morphology (number of antennal articles, ocelli, teeth on the dental margin of the forcipular coxosternite, etc.) and differ mainly in the degree of expression of triangular projections on tergites 9, 11, and 13, and in the presence or absence of the accessory pretarsal spine on the ultimate legs. According to Sselivanoff (1881), Muralewicz (1929), and Zalesskaja (1978), *L. oblongus* differs from *L. viriatus* in the absence of both triangular projections on tergite 9 and the accessory pretarsal spine on the ultimate legs. However, Zapparoli (1988:33), who studied a male specimen identified as *L. oblongus* by Muralewicz, considered that there are no differences between these species. He noted that this specimen has the accessory pretarsal spine and the expression of triangular projections of the tergites falls within the intraspecific variability of *L. viriatus*; consequently, he synonymized *L. oblongus* under *L. viriatus*. Moreover, the morphology of *L. coloratus* also falls within this variability. Given this uncertainty in distinguishing among these species, we assign studied specimens to *L. cf. coloratus*.

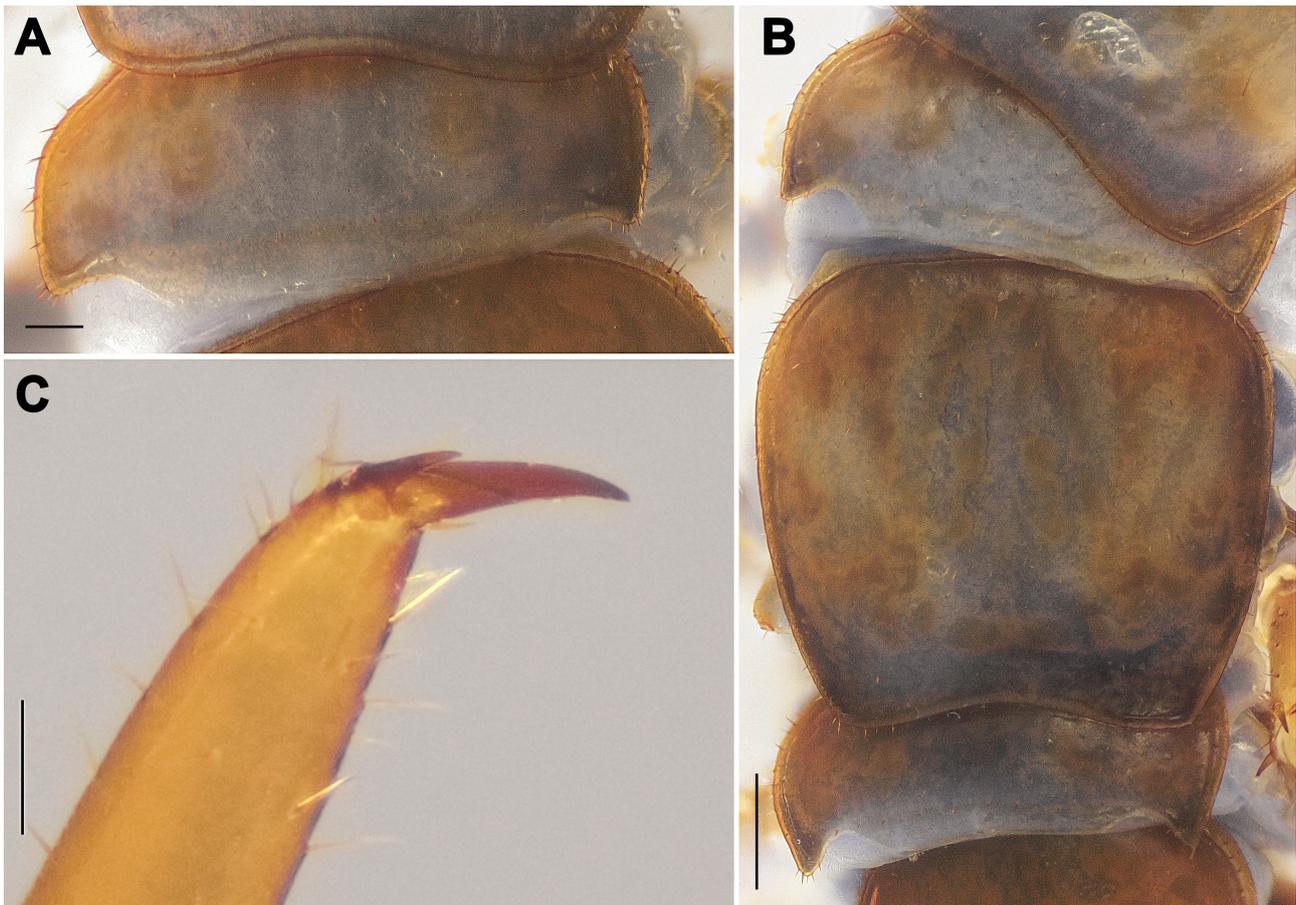


Figure 2. *Lithobius* cf. *coloratus* Sselivanoff, 1881 (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000274), ♂: **A.** Tergite 9, dorsally; **B.** Tergites 11–13, dorsally; **C.** Pretarsus of ultimate legs, laterally. Scale: 0.1 mm (C), 0.2 mm (A), 0.5 mm (B).

Table 1. Differences between studied specimens, *Lithobius coloratus* Sselivanoff, 1881, *L. oblongus* Sselivanoff, 1881, and *L. viriatus* Sselivanoff, 1878.

Species	CHARACTERS				Source
	Triangular projections			Accessory pretarsal spine of ultimate legs	
	Tergite 9	Tergite 11	Tergite 13		
<i>L. oblongus</i>	Small	Very small		Absent	Sselivanoff 1881
	Absent	Absent or small	Absent or small	Absent	Muralewicz 1929 Zalesskaja 1978
	Absent or poorly developed			Present	Zapparoli 1988
<i>L. viriatus</i>	Large pointed (sometimes obtuse) triangular projections			Present	Muralewicz 1929
	Large pointed triangular projections				Zalesskaja 1978
	Absent or small	Absent or small	“present”		Zapparoli 1988
<i>L. coloratus</i>	Small	Large	Large	Present	Muralewicz 1929
	Weak	“normal”	“normal”	Present	Zalesskaja 1978
Studied specimens	Small	Well-developed	Well-developed	Present	Current study

Order Scolopendromorpha Pocock, 1895

Family Cryptopidae Kohlrausch, 1881

Genus *Cryptops* Leach, 1815

Cryptops caucasius Verhoeff, 1934

Fig. 3

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ad. (ASU No. 785), 4 ad. (ASU No. 799), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49", E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD; 2 ad. (ASU No. 798), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 1.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'09", E45°57'01", mountain steppe with bushes, under stones, 2050 m, 15.VI.2024, coll. YD; 2 ad. (ASU No. 800), 2 km NE Paragachay Village, bushes near stream, under stones, in soil, N39°06'19" E45°57'29", 2170 m, 16.VI.2024, coll. YD; 27 ad. (ASU No. 801), 500 m NE the tract Agdere, N39°06'46", E45°55'24", bushes near stream, *Salix*, under stones, in soil, 2140 m, 17.VI.2024, coll. YD; 8 ad. (ASU No. 802), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, Lakedagh Village, inflow of river, N39°17'17", E45°50'05", under stones and in soil on river bank, 1800 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Mostly Caucasus (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1992; Dyachkov et al. 2022b), Turkmenistan (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1992). Azerbaijan: Lankaran District (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1992; Dyachkov 2024) and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Remarks. This species is characterized by the presence of an anterior transverse suture on tergite 1; Zalesskaja & Schileyko (1992) recorded one specimen from Gaftoni (vicinity of Lankaran, Azerbaijan) having paramedian sutures on this tergite that converge between the anterior transverse suture and mid-length of the tergite (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1992:fig. 6) and noted that this character may be variable.

Zuev (2016:fig. 22) also illustrated a specimen with such sutures from the Stavropol Region (N Caucasus). All 44 specimens from the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic have posteriorly converging paramedian sutures on tergite 1 (indicated by arrows in Fig. 3B).

Cryptops hortensis (Donovan, 1810)

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic; 3 ad. (ZISP MYR_CHI_0000291), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 1.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'09", E45°57'01", mountain steppe with bushes, under stones, 2050 m, 15.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. A Turano-Euro-Mediterranean species (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1991, 1992; Dyachkov et al. 2022b). Azerbaijan: "Azerbaijan" (see fig. 5 in Zalesskaja & Schileyko (1992), Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

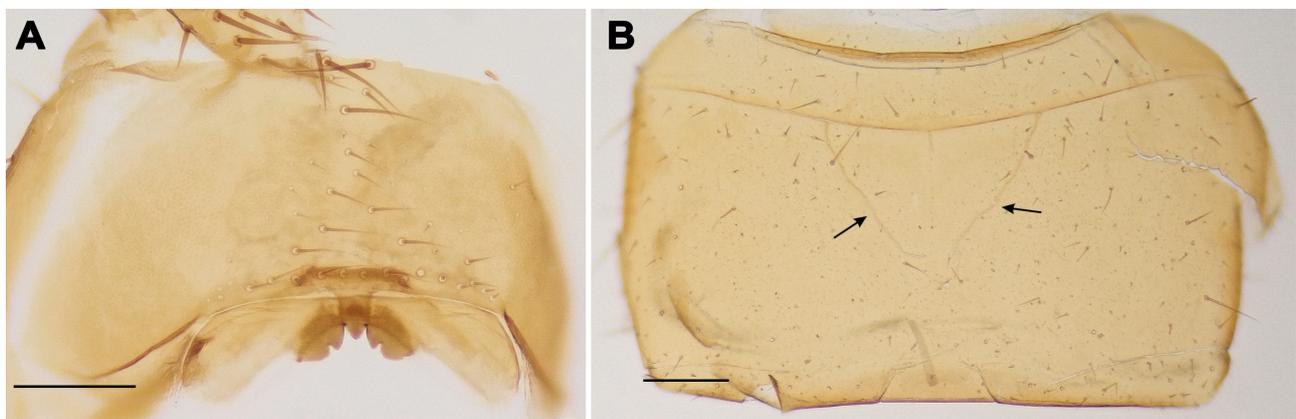


Figure 3. *Cryptops caucasius* Verhoeff, 1934 (ASU No. 785): **A.** Clypeus and labrum, ventrally; **B.** Tergite 1, dorsally. Scale 0.2 mm.

Family Scolopendridae Leach, 1814**Genus *Scolopendra* Linnaeus, 1758*****Scolopendra canidens* Newport, 1844**

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 2 ad. (ASU No. 741), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 1.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'09", E45°57'01", mountain steppe with bushes, under stones, 2050 m, 15.VI.2024, coll. YD; 2 juv. (ASU No. 740), Unus Village, N39°00'26", E45°58'51", dry stony steppe, under stones, 1800 m, 21.VI.2024, coll. YD; 1 ad. (ASU No. 743) and 4 ad. (ASU No. 684), the tract Agdere, N39°06'38", E45°54'51", meadow, under stones, 1980 m, 16–17.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Mostly the Turano-Mediterranean Region (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1991, 1992; Dyachkov et al. 2022b). Azerbaijan: Goygol and Goranboy districts, Baku (Kessler 1874; Muralewicz 1926), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Class Diplopoda de Blainville, 1844**Order Polyxenida Lucas, 1840****Family Polyxenidae Lucas, 1840****Genus *Propolyxenus* Silvestri, 1948*****Propolyxenus argentifer* (Verhoeff, 1921)**

Material. Not examined.

Distribution. Mostly Eastern-Mediterranean Region; Azerbaijan: Lankaran, Lerik, Khachmaz, and Kalbajar districts, Zagatala Nature Reserve, Mountainous Garabag, and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: Ordubad District, 4 km S of Bilav, N39°12'40", E45°24'38" (Short et al. 2020).

Order Julida Leach, 1814**Family Blaniulidae C. L. Koch, 1847****Genus *Nopoiulus* Menge, 1851*****Nopoiulus kochii* (Gervais, 1847)**

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♂ (ZMS), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49" E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. A subcosmopolitan species (Enghoff 1984; Golovatch & Enghoff 1990). Azerbaijan: Guba, Khizi, Shemakhi, Kalbajar, Ismayilli, Sheki, Zagatala, Goygol, Khojaly, Khojavend districts, Shusha city (Enghoff 1984; Golovatch & Enghoff 1990), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Family Julidae Leach, 1814**Genus *Cylindroiulus* Verhoeff, 1894*****Cylindroiulus* sp.**

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♀ (ZMS), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49" E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Remarks. Since the material is represented by only one ♀, it is not possible to determine the exact species. *C. bicolor* Lohmander, 1932 is known from the territories of Armenia, Iran, and Azerbaijan neighboring Nakhchivan (Read 1992; Evsyukov et al. 2022), and the specimen we discovered may belong to it. The genus *Cylindroiulus* is new to the fauna of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

Genus *Leptoiulus* Verhoeff, 1894

Leptoiulus tanymorphus (Attems, 1901)

Material. Not examined.

Distribution. Eastern Caucasus (Evsyukov et al. 2020); Azerbaijan: Shemakhi, Lankaran, Shabran [=Divichi], Lerik, Goygol, Yevlax, Gabala, Gedabek, Siyazan, Gakh, Astara districts, Mountainous Garabag, Absheron Peninsula, and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: Shakhbuz, Lake Batabat (Evsyukov et al. 2020; Golovatch 2023).

Genus *Omobrachiulus* Lohmander, 1936

Omobrachiulus caucasicus (Karsch, 1881)

Fig. 4

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 1 ♂ (ZMS), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 2.2 km NE Paragachay Village, N39°06'23", E45°57'42", bushes on Paragachay River bank, under stones, 2150 m, 16.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Caucasian subendemic, also known from northern and northwestern Iran, northeastern Turkey, and the island of Thassos, Greece (Vagalinsky & Golovatch 2021); Azerbaijan: Ismayilli, Shamakhi, Khachmaz, Guba, Gedabek districts, Istisu, Altyagach National Park, Zagatala Nature Reserve, Turianchay Nature Reserve, Talysh Mountains (Vagalinsky & Golovatch 2021; Golovatch 2023; Evsyukov et al. 2022), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

Remarks. A gonopod is illustrated to document the identification (Fig. 4).

Genus *Syrioiulus* Verhoeff, 1914

Syrioiulus armeniacus Evsyukov, Golovatch, Antić, 2021

Fig. 5

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 6 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMS), Ordubad District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 5 km NE Unus Village, N39°02'12", E46°01'53", meadow near river bank, under stones, 2030 m, 20.VI.2024, coll. YD.



Figure 4. *Omobrachiulus caucasicus* (Karsch, 1881) (ZMS): gonopods, mesally. Without scale.

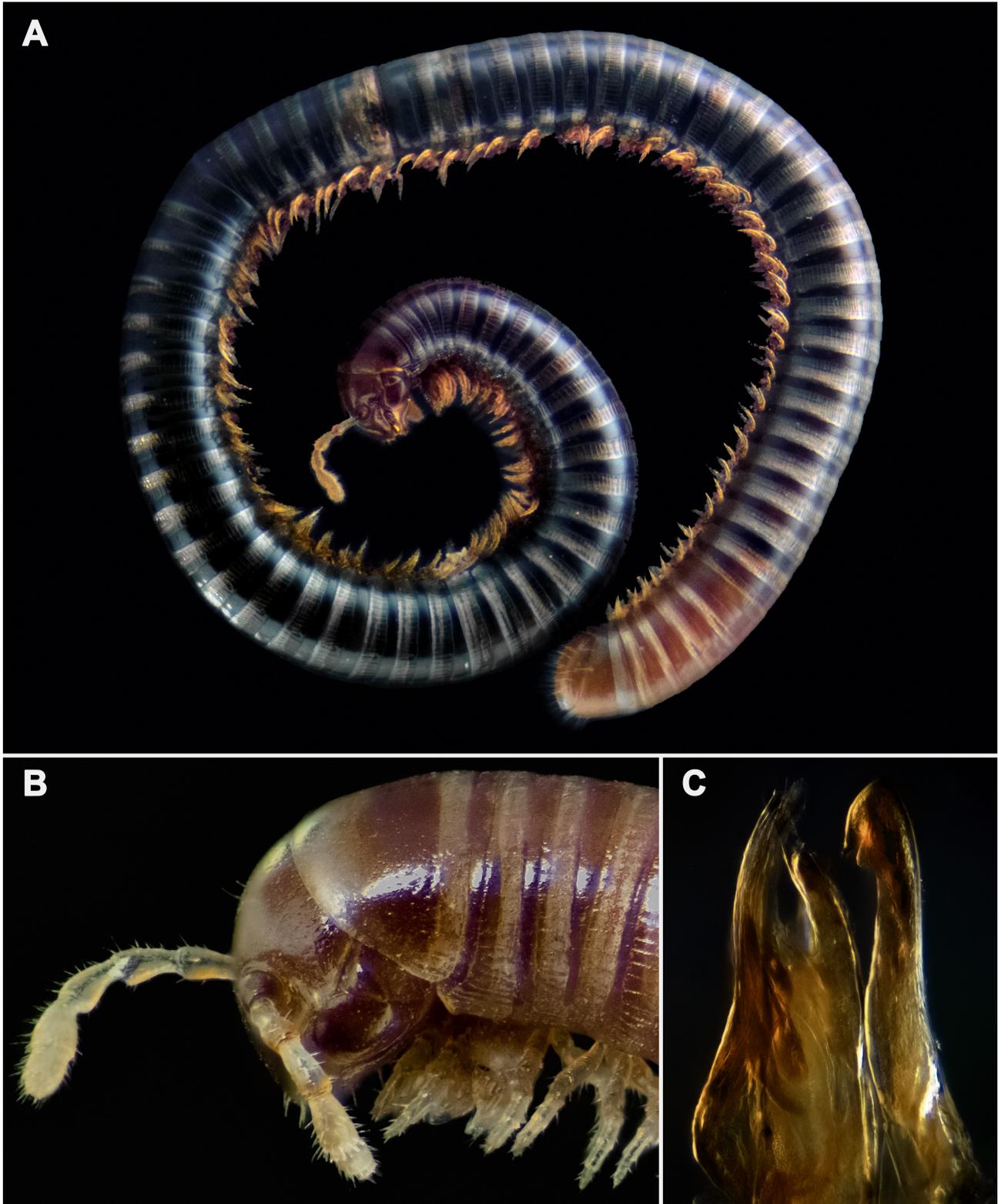


Figure 5. *Syrioiulus armeniacus* Evsyukov, Golovatch, Antić, 2021 (ZMS): **A.** Habitus, laterally. **B.** Head, laterally. **C.** gonopods, mesally. All without scale.

Distribution. Caucasian endemic, previously known only from Armenia (Evsyukov et al. 2021). Azerbaijan: Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (present data).

Remarks. This species is new to the fauna of Azerbaijan.

Order Polydesmida Pocock, 1887

Family Polydesmidae Leach, 1815

Genus *Brachydesmus* Heller, 1858

Brachydesmus kalischewskyi Lignau, 1915

Fig. 6

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 3 ♂♂, 13 ♀♀, 1 juv. (ZMS), 500 m NE the tract Agdere, N39°06'46", E45°55'24", bushes near stream, *Salix*, under stones, in soil, 2140 m, 17.VI.2024, coll. YD; 3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZMS), Shahbuz District, Zangezur Mt. Range, 800 m S Batabat Lake, near observatory, N39°31'49" E45°46'50", forest, *Populus*, *Salix*, in litter, under stones, 2000–2070 m, 22.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Distributed throughout the Caucasus, it is also known from neighboring regions of Turkey and Iran; Azerbaijan: Lerik, Khizi, Shemakhi, Agdash, Lankaran, Astara, Kedabek, Guba districts, Hirkan National Park, Mountainous Garabag, Zagatala Nature Reserve, Goy-Gol Nature Reserve, Turianchay Nature Reserve, and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: S of Pass Bichenek, W of Shakhbuz (Golovatch et al. 2016; Golovatch 2023; Evsyukov et al. 2022).

Remarks. Six morphs of *B. kalischewskyi* are currently known, previously described as separate species. The taxonomic status of these morphs requires clarification using molecular genetic methods. Morph F is known from Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, Mountainous Garabag, and Armenia (Golovatch et al. 2016). The specimens we discovered also belong to this morph.

Family Paradoxosomatidae Daday, 1889

Genus *Strongylosoma* Brandt, 1833

Strongylosoma lenkoranum Attems, 1898

Material. Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic: 4 ♀♀ (ZMS), Julfa District, Zangezur Mt. Range, Lakedagh Village, inflow of river, N39°17'17", E45°50'05", under stones and in soil on river bank, 1800 m, 24.VI.2024, coll. YD.

Distribution. Transcaucasia, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan (Evsyukov et al. 2016), also introduced in the Samara Region, European Russia (Golovatch et al. 2025); Azerbaijan: Lankaran, Gabala, Shemakhi, Guba, Masally, Khachmaz districts, Mountainous Garabag (Evsyukov et al. 2016; Golovatch 2023), and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (**New record**).

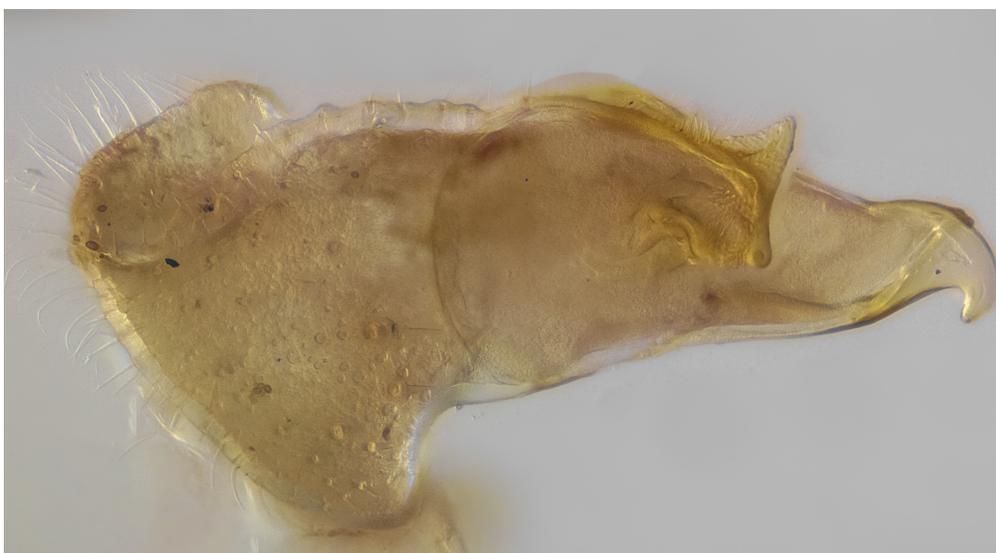


Figure 6. *Brachydesmus kalischewskyi* Lignau, 1915, morph F (ZMS): gonopod, ventrally. Without scale.

DISCUSSION

Until now, the myriapod fauna of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic has been very poorly studied: only one species of Chilopoda and three species of Diplopoda were known from this territory. Our research significantly expands this knowledge. To date, the myriapod fauna of the region consists of 20 species: 12 species of Chilopoda (from eight genera, seven families, and three orders), eight species of Diplopoda (from eight genera, five families, and three orders). Family Henicopidae, genus *Lamyctes*, the species *L. emarginatus* (Chilopoda), and *Syrroiulus armeniacus* (Diplopoda) are new to the fauna of Azerbaijan. About half of all the representatives of the fauna under consideration are Caucasian endemics and sub-endemics (*Clinopodes caucasicus*, *Lithobius asper laeviceps*, *L. erythrocephalus cronebergii*, *L. coloratus*, *Cryptops caucasius*, *Leptoiulus tanyomorphus*, *Omobrachyiulus caucasicus*, *Syrroiulus armeniacus*, and *Brachydesmus kalischewskyi*). Three species are distributed mainly in the Mediterranean region (*Henia bicarinata*, *Clinopodes escherichii*, *Propolyxenus argentifer*) (Bonato et al. 2011; Simaiakis et al. 2013; Short et al. 2020; Dyachkov et al. 2022b; Zuev et al. 2025), and another three have wide ranges (*Pachymerium ferrugineum*, *Lamyctes emarginatus*, *Nopoiulus kochii*) (Golovatch & Enghoff 1990; Dyachkov et al. 2022a, 2022b). Two species occur in the Turano-Mediterranean Region (*Bothriogaster signata* and *Scolopendra canidens*) (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1991, 1992; Simaiakis et al. 2013; Zarei et al. 2020), one is known from the Turano-Euro-Mediterranean Region (*Cryptops hortensis*) (Zalesskaja & Schileyko 1991, 1992), and one is spread mainly in the Middle East (*Strongylosoma lenkoranum*) (Evsyukov et al. 2016). The range of *Cylindroiulus* sp. remains unclear. It is highly likely that further research in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic will reveal additional Caucasian endemic species already recorded from the adjacent territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, as well as species from Iran and Turkey.

AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

The authors confirm their contribution to the paper as follows: Yu.V. Dyachkov: collecting, preparing, and examining the specimens of Chilopoda, identification, photographing, and revising the manuscript; R.V. Zuev: preparing, examining the specimens of Diplopoda, identification, photographing, and revising the manuscript; N. Snegovaya & I.B.-O. Mammadov: revising the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIAL

The specimens listed in this study are deposited in Altai State University (Barnaul, Russia), Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Saint Petersburg, Russia), Zoological Museum of the North Caucasian Federal University (Stavropol, Russia), and are available from the curator upon request.

ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

This study only included arthropod material, and all required ethical guidelines for the treatment and use of animals were strictly adhered to in accordance with international, national, and institutional regulations. No human participants were involved in any studies conducted by the authors for this article.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

GENERATIVE AI STATEMENT

No generative AI tools were used in the preparation of this paper.

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فون هزارپایان (Chilopoda, Diplopoda) جمهوری خودمختار نخجوان (آذربایجان)

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چکیده: فون هزارپایان در جمهوری خودمختار نخجوان (آذربایجان) شامل حداقل ۲۰ گونه است: ۱۲ گونه از هشت جنس، هفت خانواده و سه رده از Chilopoda و هشت گونه از هشت جنس، پنج خانواده و سه رده از Diplopoda. خانواده *L. emarginatus* (Newport, 1844) و گونه *Lamyctes Meinert, 1868* جنس *Henicopidae Pocock, 1901* از آذربایجان ثبت شدند. گونه‌های *Lithobius erythrocephalus cronebergii Sseliwanoff, 1881* و *Brachydesmus caucasicus (Karsch, 1881)* و *Syrioiulus armeniacus Evsyukov, Golovatch, Antić, 2021* برای اولین بار در آذربایجان ثبت شدند. تنوع درون‌گونه‌ای قابل توجه در *Cryptops caucasicus kalischewskiy Lignau, 1915* و *Lithobius cf. coloratus Sseliwanoff, 1881* و Verhoeff, 1934 و *Brachydesmus caucasicus (Karsch, 1881)* و *Syrioiulus armeniacus Evsyukov, Golovatch, Antić, 2021* مشاهده شد. تاریخچه مطالعات بر روی هزارپایان در جمهوری خودمختار نخجوان نیز مرور شد.

ویراستار علمی

Greg Edgecombe

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واژگان کلیدی: تنوع زیستی، تنوع درون‌گونه‌ای، ثبت جدید، قفقاز جنوبی، رشته‌کوه زنگزور