
SERGEI I. GOLOVATCH\(^1\) AND NESRINE AKKARI\(^2\)

\(^1\) Institute for Problems of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky prospekt 33, Moscow 119071, RUSSIA

\(^2\) Dritte Zoologische Abteilung (Evertebrata), Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Burgring 7, A-1010 Wien, AUSTRIA

Corresponding author. Sergei I. Golovatch (sgolovatch@yandex.ru)

Received: 29 December 2015; Accepted: 8 January 2016

**ABSTRACT.**—The widespread Indochinese millipede, *Niponia kometis* (Attems, 1938), is abundantly illustrated from type material and shown to be senior to *Trichopeltis deharvengi* Golovatch, Geoffroy, Mauriès and VandenSpiegel, 2010, syn. n. et comb. n. ex *Pseudoniponiella*. The following formal generic synonymy is also proposed: *Trichopeltis* Pocock, 1894 = *Pseudoniponiella* Verhoeff, 1942, syn. n.

**KEY WORDS:** *Trichopeltis*, taxonomy, new synonymy, new combination, Vietnam

**INTRODUCTION**

In tropical or subtropical Asia and Australasia, the millipede family Cryptodesmidae comprises only 12 genera (including two that are dubious) and 35 species (Golovatch, 2015). One of the genera is *Pseudoniponiella* Verhoeff, 1942, whose type, and sole, species *Niponielle kometis* Attems, 1938, inhabits Vietnam (Attems, 1938; Verhoeff, 1942).

Regrettably, when describing *Niponielle kometis*, Attems (1938) provided crude and somewhat misleading sketches of its gonopodal structure which he partly repeated two years later as well (Attems, 1940): by no means do they allow readers to recognize the species. In fact, the gonopod telopodite was depicted and described as bipartite with a broad, rather regularly rounded, lower, caudal lobe placed anterior to a higher, acuminate, laterally serrate lamina. The only mention of a seminal groove was that it was visible through the transparent base of the caudal lobe.

Since *N. kometis* was stated to represent the second species in the genus following *N. nodulosa* (Verhoeff, 1931) (Attems, 1938), *Niponielle* was merely a slight misspelling of *Niponiella* Verhoeff, 1936. That latter name, along with *Onomatoplanus* Attems, 1940, was proposed to replace *Niponia* Verhoeff, 1931, which was thought to be preoccupied (Jeekel, 1971). In fact, *N. nodulosa* Verhoeff, 1931, is the type and still the only accepted species of *Niponia* which is very common in southern Japan and Taiwan (Golovatch et al., 2011). Both *Niponiella* and *Onomatoplanus* have been rejected from nomenclature because they are junior objective synonyms of *Niponia*, and *Niponiella* Verhoeff, 1936, is preoccupied by *Nipioniella* Klapálek, 1907 (Plecoptera) (Jeekel, 1971; Hoffman, 1980).

*Trichopeltis* Pocock, 1894 (= *Otodesmus* Cook, 1896), comprises six species that range from the Himalayas of India (Assam and Darjeeling District) and Myanmar to southern China, Indochina and Indonesia (Sumatra) (Golovatch et al., 2010). Unlike
*Niponia*, this genus is well-defined and characterized by a tripartite or deeply notched gonopod telopodite, including a small middle to caudal solenomere branch (Golovatch et al., 2010).

Attems’ type material of *Pseudoniponiella kometis*, housed in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria (NHMW), allows us to synonymize *Pseudoniponiella* under *Trichopeltis* and propose a new species synonymy and a new combination.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

We designate a male syntype as the lectotype of *P. kometis* to ensure that the species is based on adult male characters. The illustrated specimens were photographed with a Nikon SMZ25 stereo microscope using NIS-Elements Microscope Imaging Software and the images were assembled with Adobe Indesign CS6.

In the synonymy sections, D stands for a description or descriptive notes, R for new records, while M for a mere mention.

*Trichopeltis kometis* (Attems, 1938), comb. n. (Figs 1-16)
*Niponiella* (sic!) *kometis* Attems, 1938: 244, figs 87–95 (D).
*Onomatoplanus* *kometis* – Attems, 1940: 222, figs 310–312 (D); 1953: 179 (R).
*Pseudoniponiella kometis* – Verhoeff, 1942: 431, 432 (D); Golovatch, 2015: 156 (M).
*Niponia* *kometis* – Golovatch, 1983: 180 (R); Enghoff et al., 2004: 141 (R); Likhittrakarn et al., 2014: 479 (R); 2015: 181 (R).

*Trichopeltis deharvengi* Golovatch, Geoffroy, Mauriès and VandenSpiegel, 2010: 64, figs 1–27 (D), syn. n.


**Descriptive notes.–** Length 11–12.2 (♂) or 11.9–13 mm (♀), width of midbody pro- and metazonae 1–1.1 and 2.5–2.9 (♂) or 1.4 and 2.9–3.2 mm (♀), respectively. Lectotype ♂ (NHMW 8694), length 11.3 mm, width of midbody pro- and metazonae 1.0 and 2.5 mm, respectively.

All characters as described and overwhelmingly illustrated for *T. deharvengi* by Golovatch et al. (2010) and further documented in Figs 1–16.

**Remarks.–** There can be no doubt that *T. deharvengi* is a junior subjective synonym of *T. kometis*, syn. n. et comb. n. ex *Pseudoniponiella*. This fact also leads to the following formal generic synonymy: *Trichopeltis* Pocock, 1894 = *Pseudoniponiella* Verhoeff, 1942, syn. n.

Indeed, *T. deharvengi* was reported from near Dalat, where *T. kometis* also occurs (Attems, 1938; Golovatch et al., 2010), and this species is quite widespread in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
FIGURE 1-2. *Trichopeltis kometis* (Attems, 1938), ♂ lectotype (NHMW 8694): (1) habitus, lateral view; (2) anterior part of body, lateral view.
Figure 3-10. *Trichopeltis kometis* (Attems, 1938): (3–4) type series from Dalat and Lang Biang, respectively; (5–10) ♂ paralectotype (NHWM 8695): (5–6) anterior part of body, ventral and dorsal views, respectively; (7–8) midbody segments, ventral and dorsal views, respectively; (9–10) posterior part of body, ventral and dorsal views, respectively.
Figure 11-16. Trichopeltis kometis (Attems, 1938), ♂ paralectotype (NHWM 8695): (11) antenna, ventral view; (12) a right midbody paratergum, ventral view; (13–16) right gonopod, mesal, subventral, lateral and subdorsal views, respectively.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rowland M. Shelley (Raleigh, NC, U.S.A.) most helpfully checked the English of an advanced draft.

LITERATURE CITED


