

ON THE TRUE IDENTITY OF *GEOPHILUS SORRENTINUS* ATTEMS (CHILOPODA: GEOPHILOMORPHA).

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In 1905 Attems described a new species of *Geophilus* from Mte. Faito on the Sorrento Peninsula in Italy. It appears to have been recorded only once.

The type was re-examined as the result of the collection in Surrey of what appeared to be a second specimen of the species (Lewis and Keay, 1994). The type is housed in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna and is in two parts, the head and anterior 53 segments in a vial of ethanol and the posterior 6 segments mounted on a slide.

Attems' description is brief. A translation is given here: *Geophilus sorrentinus* Attems, 1903. *Zool. Jahrb. Syst.* 18:228. Colour yellowish white, head yellow.

Length 22mm, 59 pairs of legs (1 ♀).

Head capsule as long as wide, no frontal suture.

Antennae short, last antennomere with deep spoon-shaped concavity. The closed forcipules not reaching the anterior border of the head capsule. Chitin lines complete. Anterior wall of coxosternum, inner margin of other segments and of claw without teeth. Inner edge of claw smooth.

Tergites with paramedian sutures. Ventral pores very difficult to see, in a round group towards the posterior margin of the first to the penultimate segment.

Last sternite wide, lateral walls parallel, posterior corners rounded.

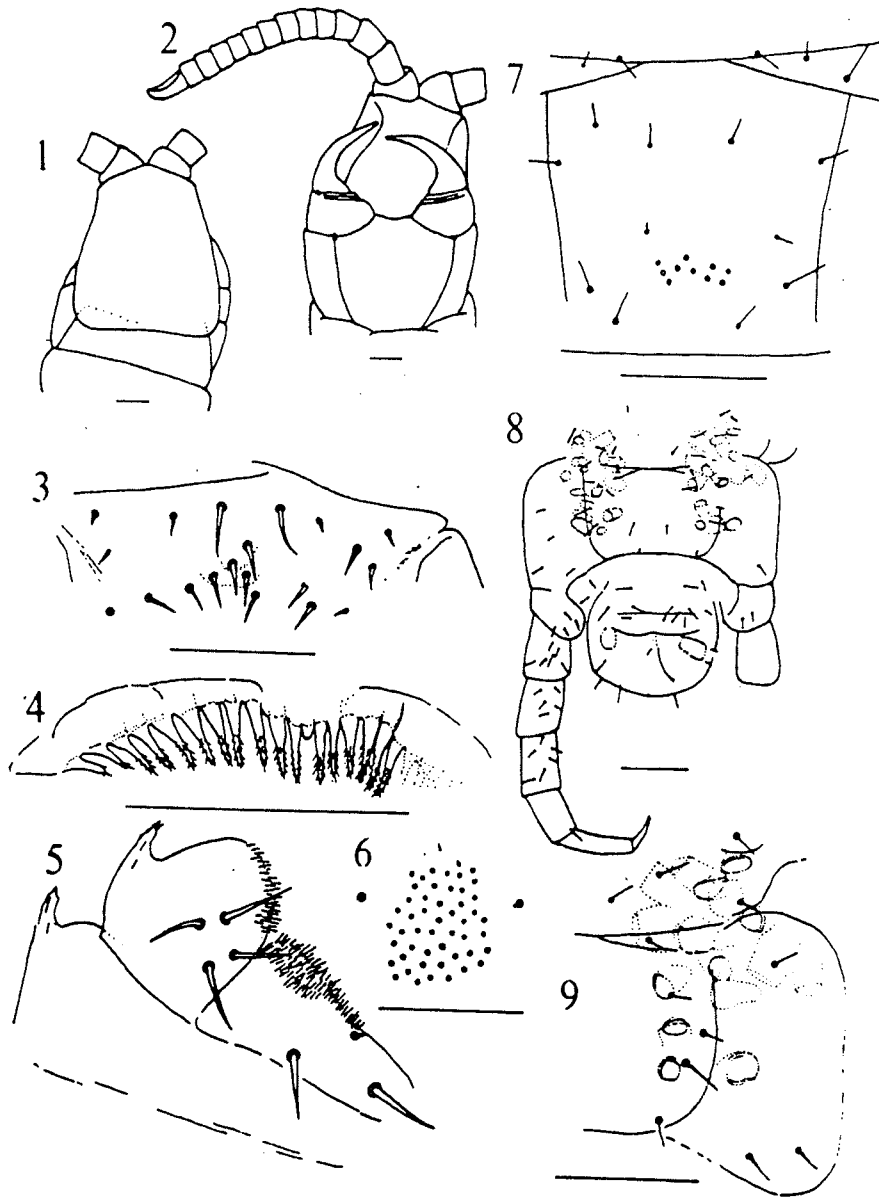
Coxae of last legs with about 15 pores, united into poorly defined groups along the anterior and lateral margins of the sternite. End leg with well-developed terminal claw.

2 anal pores present.

Locality: Mte. Faito on the sorrentine peninsula.

Comments on the type.

1. The head capsule has its anterior lateral edges turned under (Figs.1 & 2).
2. The spoon-shaped concavity on each terminal antennomere (Fig. 2) is probably due to collapse and not a valid character. Attems omitted it from the description in his 1929 monograph.
3. Attems gave no details of the clypeus, labrum or maxillae even though they are clearly visible. The clypeus (Fig.3) has irregular 4 transverse rows of setae, 20 in all. The labrum is indistinctly divided into 3 parts, the mid-piece with fringed fimbriae like those of the side-pieces and a median



Figures 1-9 The type specimen of *Geophilus sorrentinus* Attems
 1) Dorsal view of head capsule and forcipular segment. 2) Ventral
 view of the same. 3) Clypeus. 4) Labrum. 5) First maxilla, left.
 6) Pore field, sternite 17. 7) Sternite 58. 8) Terminal segments,
 ventral view. 9) Detail of coxal pores, right terminal leg.
 (Scale line = 0.1mm).

tooth (Fig. 4). About 22 fimbriae in all (the right hand end of the labrum is obscured). First maxilla (Fig.5) with two pairs of palps.

4. Ventral pore fields are single on the anterior segments (Fig. 6) as far as segment 23 beyond which they are not visible. On the slide of the posterior segments the pore field of segment 54 can be seen to be double, those of segments 55-58 are single (Fig.7).
5. Attems accurately described the arrangement of pores on the coxopleura of the last pair of legs but failed to note that the anterior group, (12-11) open into a groove at the base of the coxosternum (Figs.8 and 9). The pores (7-5) opening along the lateral borders of the sternite do not appear to open onto the surface but a pit cannot be detected.

In the light of the new information, the specimen was re-identified. It runs down to *Clinopodes linearis* (C.L.Koch) in Attems' (1929) key. The leg number (59) is intermediate between that of *C.l.linearis* (63-79) and *C.l.abbreviatus* (Verhoeff) (55-57). *C.l.linearis* is widely distributed in Europe. *C.l.abbreviatus* is recorded from Corpo di Cava on the Sorrento peninsula and Ferrania, Liguria. Minelli (1991) restored *linearis* to the genus *Geophilus* commenting that it "seems much closer to *Geophilus* Leach 1814 than to the type species of *Clinopodes* i.e. *Clinopodes flavidus* C.L.Koch 1847...it forms a fairly well-defined group with the so-called *G.linearis abbreviatus* Verhoeff 1925 (probably a good species) and *G.romanus* Silvestri 1896." Attems (1929) described the coxal pores of *C.linearis* as numerous as did Eason (1964). His figure shows about 9 pores opening into a pit under the sternite and 18 opening near the base of the coxa. Brölemann (1930) shows 9 and 34 respectively. The numbers of pores in *G.sorrentius* are considerably lower. This, plus the small size of the specimen (22mm). Brölemann giving the maximum for females as 50mm, suggest that this is an adolescens specimen. The specimen is here assigned to *Geophilus linearis*. The status of *G.linearis abbreviatus* is uncertain.

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