



Reinstatement of *Spirostreptus kandyanus* Humbert, 1865 and deletion of *Thyropygus allevatus* (Karsch, 1881) and *Sphaeropoeus hercules* (Brandt, 1833) in the checklist of Sri Lankan Diplopoda

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The Diplopoda have been studied for some 250 years, but until the later part of the nineteenth century most descriptions were rather cursory and neither the species concept nor type concept were well established (Hoffman 2009). Even for well-explored regions like Europe, the description of the Diplopoda saw a proliferation of synonyms (Enghoff 1976) while the complexity of Diplopoda systematics was severely underestimated until very recently (Brewer *et al.* 2012).

The classification of the Asiatic Harpagophoridae (Spirostreptida) had been chaotic until the revision by Demange (1961), and even then many species remained enigmatic because the main distinguishing characters (principally the gonopods) were not or insufficiently described and illustrated in the original description. Many Asian harpagophorids were described by two Hungarian workers, Eduardo Tömösváry (1885) and Eugenius Daday (1889), the types being deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest. Hoffman (1982) studied their material and discovered a number of misidentifications, including *Thyropygus allevatus* (Karsch 1881) identified by Daday as *Spirostreptus kandyanus* Humbert, 1865. In correcting this, Hoffman clearly stated that Daday's interpretation was incorrect rather than establishing a synonymy (Humbert's name is in any case senior), but this has subsequently been interpreted as if he had done so. Consequently, the recent checklist of Sri Lanka Diplopoda compiled by De Zoysa *et al.* (2016) included *Thyropygus allevatus* (Karsch, 1881), a species described from what is now Thailand, with *Spirostreptus kandyanus* Humbert, 1865 as a junior synonym. This confusion is hereby corrected, and *Spirostreptus kandyanus* Humbert, 1865 is reinstated in the Sri Lanka checklist, while *Thyropygus allevatus* (Karsch, 1881) is deleted, the records of this species being based on the misinterpretation of the statement by Hoffman (1982) as a synonymy. However, the generic allocation of *kandyanus* remains only formal, certainly incorrect, like is that of its nominate congeners from Sri Lanka, as *Spirostreptus* is a purely Afrotropical genus (Hoffman *et al.* 2001). Even the presence the family Spirostreptidae in Sri Lanka is very doubtful.

Pocock (1892) reported that *Sphaeropoeus hercules* Brandt, 1833 (Sphaerotheriida: Zephroniidae) was found in Sri Lanka, and this record led to its inclusion in the checklist of Sri Lanka Diplopoda (De Zoysa *et al.* 2016). However, Pocock (1894) stated that this record was doubtful (Wesener 2016a; Wesener 2016b). This species, therefore, should be removed from the millipede list of Sri Lanka.

Consequently, the Sri Lankan Diplopoda checklist is being updated to: a total of 103 millipede species belonging to 43 genera, 17 families and nine orders which have been recorded in Sri Lanka (Table 1). 82 species are endemic to Sri Lanka.

TABLE 1. Updated Orders and families of millipedes recorded in Sri Lanka.

Order	Family	No. of genera	No. of species
Polyxenida	Polyxenidae	01	01
Glomeridesmida	Glomeridesmidae	01	02
Sphaerotheriida	Arthrosphaeridae	01	11
Siphonophorida	Siphonophoridae	02	02
Spirobolida	Pseudospirobolellidae	01	01
	Spirobolidae	01	06
	Pachybolidae	01	01
	Trigoniulidae	03	03
Spirostreptida	Cambalopsidae	02	09
	Harpagophoridae	08	20
	Spirostreptidae	01	04
Chordeumatida	Lankasomatidae	02	06
Stemmiulida	Stemmiulidae	01	05
Polydesmida	Paradoxosomatidae	07	20
	Pyrgodesmidae	08	08
	Cryptodesmidae	02	03
	Fuhrmannodesmidae	01	01
Total		43	103

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