

The earthworms (Oligochaeta) of Jordan

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Abstract. A new subspecies, *Dendrobaena orientalis karak* ssp. nov., is described, and four other earthworm species (*Eisenia fetida* (Savigny, 1826), *Octodrilus transpadanus* (Rosa, 1884) *Microscolex dubius* (Fletcher, 1887) and *Ocnerodrilus occidentalis* Eisen, 1878 (families Lumbricidae, Acanthodrilidae, Ocnerodrilidae respectively)) are recorded as new for the fauna of Jordan. *O. transpadanus* also represents a new record for the Levantine zoogeographic province. In addition, new data on the distribution of other earthworm taxa in Jordan are presented. The earthworm fauna of Jordan comprises altogether 13 species, of which 7 are thought to be introduced.

Kurzfassung. Eine neue Unterart, *Dendrobaena orientalis karak* ssp. nov., wird beschrieben, und vier weitere Regenwurmartarten (*Eisenia fetida* (Savigny, 1826), *Octodrilus transpadanus* (Rosa, 1884) *Microscolex dubius* (Fletcher, 1887) und *Ocnerodrilus occidentalis* Eisen, 1878 (Familien Lumbricidae, Acanthodrilidae, Ocnerodrilidae)) werden als neu für die Fauna Jordaniens vorgestellt. *O. transpadanus* stellt auch eine neue Art für die levantinische zoogeographische Region dar. Ausserdem werden neue Daten über die Verbreitung weiterer Regenwurmtaxa in Jordanien präsentiert. Die Regenwurmfauna Jordaniens umfasst insgesamt 13 Arten, von denen 7 als eingeschleppt gelten.

Key words. Oligochaeta, earthworms, distribution, Jordan, Levant, Middle East.

The earthworm fauna of Jordan is hardly known in spite of its potential richness and the fact that it might include some endemic species. There is only one taxonomic publication, written more than a hundred years ago by ROSA (1893), that is devoted to the earthworms of Jordan and adjacent areas. The descriptions of two new earthworm species (*Dendrobaena semitica*, *D. byblica*) given by ROSA were based on the specimens collected in the Levant, including Jordan. ROSA also mentioned seven additional species from Jordan. Unfortunately, to the best of our knowledge, there has not been any taxonomic or faunistic investigation of earthworms in Jordan since that of ROSA (1893), apart from our own sporadic collections the results of which are presented here.

We collected earthworms by digging in the soil (T. PAVLÍČEK), and preserved the specimens in 75% alcohol. The material was identified by Cs. CSUZDI and is kept in the earthworm collection of the Natural History Museum in Budapest, Hungary (Z/catalogue number in the material section).

Family Lumbricidae

Aporrectodea caliginosa (Savigny, 1826)

Enterion caliginosum Savigny, 1826: 180.

Allolobophora (*Allolobophora*) *caliginosa*: Rosa 1893: 7.

Allolobophora caliginosa var. *trapezoides*: Černosvitov 1940: 446.

Allolobophora caliginosa f. *trapezoides*: Omodeo 1956: 335.

Allolobophora caliginosa trapezoides: Zicsi 1985: 330.