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Systematics and Taxonomy of the Genus *Rhymogona*
Morphological and Genetic Studies indicating
Synonymy of *Rhymogona montivaga* (VERHOEFF) and
***R. silvatica* (ROTHENBÜHLER)**
(Diplopoda, Craspedosomatidae)

by

Ariane PEDROLI-CHRISTEN and Adolf SCHOLL

Institute of Zoology, University of Neuchâtel, Chantemerle 22, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Institute of Zoology, University of Bern, Baltzerstr. 3, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland

This contribution analyses the systematic relationships of *Rhymogona montivaga* (VERHOEFF, 1894) and *R. silvatica* (ROTHENBÜHLER, 1899), the western species of the genus *Rhymogona* both of which are described from the same areas in the Swiss Alps.

R. montivaga has not been recorded since its original description. In contrast, *R. silvatica* is of widespread distribution in Switzerland; a clear separation from the parapatric *R. cervina* (VERHOEFF) has been recently established both with respect to morphological differentiation of male and female genitalia, and genetic differentiation as revealed by enzyme electrophoretic studies.

We have carried out extensive sampling at the localities from which *R. montivaga* was first described. A comparison of this material with VERHOEFF's description of *R. montivaga* and with *R. silvatica* did not indicate significant morphological differences, since *R. silvatica* itself shows a certain variability in gonopod structures. Electrophoretically the *R. montivaga* populations were identical with *R. silvatica*, both with respect to the alleles observed and to their frequencies. Based on this evidence we conclude, that *R. silvatica* is a junior synonym of *R. montivaga*. The results have been published in detail in Rev. suisse Zool. **98**: 83 - 92 (1991).

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Pedroli-Christen Ariane, Scholl Adolf

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