

Occurrence of a new Genus of Troglobitic Nicoletiidae (Ins., Thysanura) in Mexico

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With plate 127 (1)

When, in 1963, in my synopsis of *Nicoletiidae*, I synonymized tentatively the poorly described *Nicoletia texensis* Ulrich with *Nicoletia (Anelpistina) wheeleri* Silvestri, I was certainly not prepared to must correct myself within few years to follow. The error became evident when I received for examination two specimens of a most distinctive type of *Nicoletiidae* collected, in 1964, by Professor C. Kosswig, the director of the Zoological Institute of Hamburg (Germany), on his Mexico journey. Both specimens were captured on 11 April in the Quintero caves (Grutas de Quintero), Valles al Mante, Tamaulipas, and will be deposited with the Hamburg Zoological Museum.

The present investigation confirms the existence of Ulrich's type of *Nicoletia* in which the lengthening of legs, cerci, antennae and other appendages reaches its known maximum. Among Diplura, nearly the same degree of lengthening of the appendages may be observed in *Plusiocampa dargilani* (Moniez), a troglobitic *Campodeidae* from France.

The male of *Nicoletia texensis* Ulrich does not possess submedian processes on urosternite IV and the species differs thus from all members of the subgenus *Anelpistina* Silv., type *Nicoletia wheeleri* Silv. from Texas. The numbers of styli and eversible vesicles of *Nicoletia texensis* Ulrich, 8 and 6 pairs respectively, fit with the definition of the genus *Nicoletia*. On the other hand, a different structure of the median claw separates the species described by Ulrich from the *Nicoletia* complex, and requires the erection of a new genus for it.

Nicoletia texensis Ulrich being, however, under redescription, it seems premature to create the relevant new genus in the present article. The species has been described originally from Ezell's cave in Hays County, Texas. Further Texas records are included in the recent checklist by Reddell (1966). It, *N. texensis*, is one of the most remarkable cavernicolous forms

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of the family. Its presence in the Quintero caves suggests a close affinity between Texas and Mexico subterranean environments, although strongly endemic species of Crustacea¹⁾ live either of them.

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RÉSUMÉ

L'auteur a examiné deux spécimens de *Nicoletia texensis* Ulrich provenant des grottes de Quintero, aux Tamaulipas en Mexique. Parmi les principales caractéristiques de cette espèce, il faut mentionner l'allongement exagéré des pattes, des cerques, des antennes et d'autres extrémités. L'allure de l'espèce la fait ressembler beaucoup à *Plusiocampa dargilani* (Moniez), un *Campodeidae* cavernicole de France. La structure particulière de la griffe impaire médiane permettra de créer un genre nouveau pour *Nicoletia texensis*.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATE 127 (1)

Nicoletia texensis from the Quintero caves, natural size (without appendages): 11 mm.

¹⁾ *Cirolanides texensis* Benedict in Ezell's cave; *Cirolana bolivari* Rioja and *Typhlolepidomysis quinterensis* Villalobos in the Quintero caves.

