

Review paper

Myriapodology in Serbia

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Summary. Myriapods, one of the most ancient and diverse groups of terrestrial arthropods, remain relatively understudied worldwide. Serbia is an exception, with a tradition of research dating back to 1882, when the first millipede and centipede species were recorded. Until the end of the 20th century, studies were sporadic and primarily conducted by foreign researchers. A major turning point occurred in 1995 with the establishment of systematic research at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Biology. Since then, intensive and collaborative efforts by the research group have greatly expanded the knowledge of Serbian myriapods. The team now includes over ten researchers spanning three generations: investigating taxonomy, faunistics, biogeography, biospeleology, development, reproduction, chemoeology, toxicology, biological activity, and behavior. Recent work has also focused on the poorly known Symphyla and Pauropoda. This review provides a brief history of myriapod research in Serbia, and highlights the contributions of Serbian researchers from 1995 to 2025, including a complete bibliography of the last three decades.

Keywords: bibliography, Chilopoda, Diplopoda, history, Pauropoda, Symphyla, taxonomy.

INTRODUCTION

Myriapodology is a zoological discipline that focuses on one of the most ancient and highly diverse groups of terrestrial arthropods: the subphylum Myriapoda. These animals were among the earliest arthropods to successfully colonize terrestrial environments, and today play an important ecological role, particularly in soil ecosystems, where they contribute to decomposition and nutrient cycling (Hopkin and Read 1992; Golovatch and Kime 2009).

Despite their evolutionary significance and considerable diversity, myriapods remain one of the most neglected groups of terrestrial animals. Approximately 16,000 species of Myriapoda have been described worldwide (So et

al. 2022), although the total number of existing species is estimated to be much higher. Nevertheless, the number of specialists working with this group has historically been low, and in most periods only a small number of researchers have contributed to the development of myriapodology.

In contrast to many other countries, Serbia has a relatively long tradition of myriapodological research. Owing to the work of several prominent researchers and ongoing faunistic and taxonomic studies, the myriapod fauna of Serbia has been comparatively well investigated within the region, making it an important area for understanding the diversity and distribution of Myriapoda in the Mediterranean Basin.

The sustained development of myriapodology in Serbia over the past three decades is due to the myriapodological

team at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Biology, which has seen a growing number of students interested in researching this unjustifiably neglected group each year. The following paragraphs will briefly outline the history of myriapodological studies in Serbia up until the end of the 20th century. Special attention will be given to the three-decade period from 1995, marking the establishment of modern myriapodology in Serbia, through the end of 2025. This section will present the myriapod fauna of Serbia (Diplopoda, Chilopoda, Symphyla, and Pauropoda), taxa described by Serbian myriapodologists, and the research areas addressed by the Belgrade Myriapodological School over the past three decades. A complete bibliography is provided.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MYRIAPOD STUDIES IN SERBIA UP UNTIL THE LATE 20TH CENTURY (BEFORE 1995)

The earliest records of myriapods from the territory of present-day Serbia date back to the late 19th century. To my knowledge, the first person to record these animals in Serbia was the renowned Austrian myriapodologist and entomologist Robert Latzel (1845–1919) (Fig. 1A). He is well known for his pioneering works on Myriapoda (Stagl 2006), including two important monographs: “Die Myriopoden der Österreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie. Erste Hälfte: Die Chilopoden” from 1880 and “Die Myriopoden der Österreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie. 2. Hälfte: Die Symphylen, Pauropoden und Diplopoden” from 1884 (Latzel 1880, 1884). In his publications from 1882, Latzel provided the first documented records of myriapods from Serbia, describing two millipede species—*Lysiopetalum fasciatum* Latzel, 1882 [= *Callipodella fasciata* (Latzel, 1882)] (Fig. 1B) and *Julus strictus* Latzel, 1882 [= *Typhloiulus strictus* (Latzel, 1882)] (Fig. 1C)—as well as a centipede, *Lithobius* (*Eulithobius*) *transsylvanicus* Latzel, 1882 [= *Eupolybothrus transsylvanicus* (Latzel, 1882)] (Fig. 1D) (Latzel 1882a, b).

Following Latzel's pioneering work, subsequent faunistic and taxonomic studies of Diplopoda and Chilopoda in Serbia were primarily conducted by foreign researchers, including several eminent specialists. Among them were Jenő von Daday (1855–1920), a famous Hungarian zoologist and professor; Carl Attems (1868–1952), a renowned Austrian myriapodologist who studied myriapods worldwide; Karl Strasser (1903–1981), an Italian-German diplopodologist who made significant contributions to the millipede fauna of southern Europe, including the Balkan Peninsula; and Zachi Matic (1924–1994), a distinguished Romanian chilopodologist whose extensive research greatly advanced the knowledge of centipedes in the Balkans and beyond. In addition, several other eminent authors contributed, to varying

extents, to the knowledge of Serbian millipedes and centipedes. Some of the most important papers on Serbian fauna, after Latzel's works, include Daday (1889), Verhoeff (1899), Attems (1929, 1959), Jawłowski (1933), Folkmanova (1935), Matic (1957, 1968), Matic and Dărăbanțu (1968), Strasser (1960, 1962a, b, 1971a, b), Ceuca (1964), Mršić (1985a, b, 1988a, b) and Kos (1992).

It should be noted that, in addition to foreign authors, three scientists who lived and worked in Serbia also contributed to the knowledge of the country's myriapod fauna in the second half of the 20th century. Zdravko Vučković, who was at one period affiliated with the Institute of Zoology of the University of Belgrade, published a study on the millipedes and centipedes of northern Serbia and Vojvodina (Vučković 1956). Velika Tomić-Jovanović, of the Natural History Museum in Belgrade, contributed to the understanding of Yugoslav myriapods, and listed several taxa from the territory of Serbia (Tomić-Jovanović 1964). Notably, she collected an extensive sample of Chilopoda and Diplopoda in Serbia, part of which was later processed by the late Croatian-Slovenian biologist Narcis Mršić, while most of the unprocessed material remains in the museum collection. Finally, the renowned hydrobiologist and agricultural zoologist Vlasta Pujin, who worked at the University of Novi Sad, published a study on myriapods from agricultural fields in northern Serbia (Pujin 1973).

All of the above refers almost exclusively to the two most numerous myriapod classes, Diplopoda and Chilopoda. The remaining classes, Symphyla and Pauropoda, which are less diverse and less studied, were almost completely neglected. To my knowledge, Carl Attems was the first author to report Symphyla from the territory of present-day Serbia. In his paper *Die Myriopodenfauna von Albanien und Jugoslawien*, Attems (1929) listed three symphylian species from Albania. However, one of them is from the territory of present-day Serbia, and two are from the border area between present day Serbia and North Macedonia (see below). Soon after, the presence of the same three species in the southwestern Serbia was confirmed by Paul Remy (1894–1962), a renowned French speleologist and zoologist (Remy 1943). However, it was not until the late 1970s that Muso Dizdarević (1931–2012), a Bosnian ecologist at the University of Sarajevo, published a study on the fauna of Symphyla and Pauropoda from the autonomous province of Kosovo and North Macedonia, recording several symphylian species (Dizdarević 1978). As precise locality data were not provided, it is uncertain how many of these records actually refer to the territory of Serbia, particularly given that some localities lie near the border between Serbia and North Macedonia. Nevertheless, at least three symphylian species can be reliably attributed to Serbia based on Dizdarević's (1978) data. To the best of

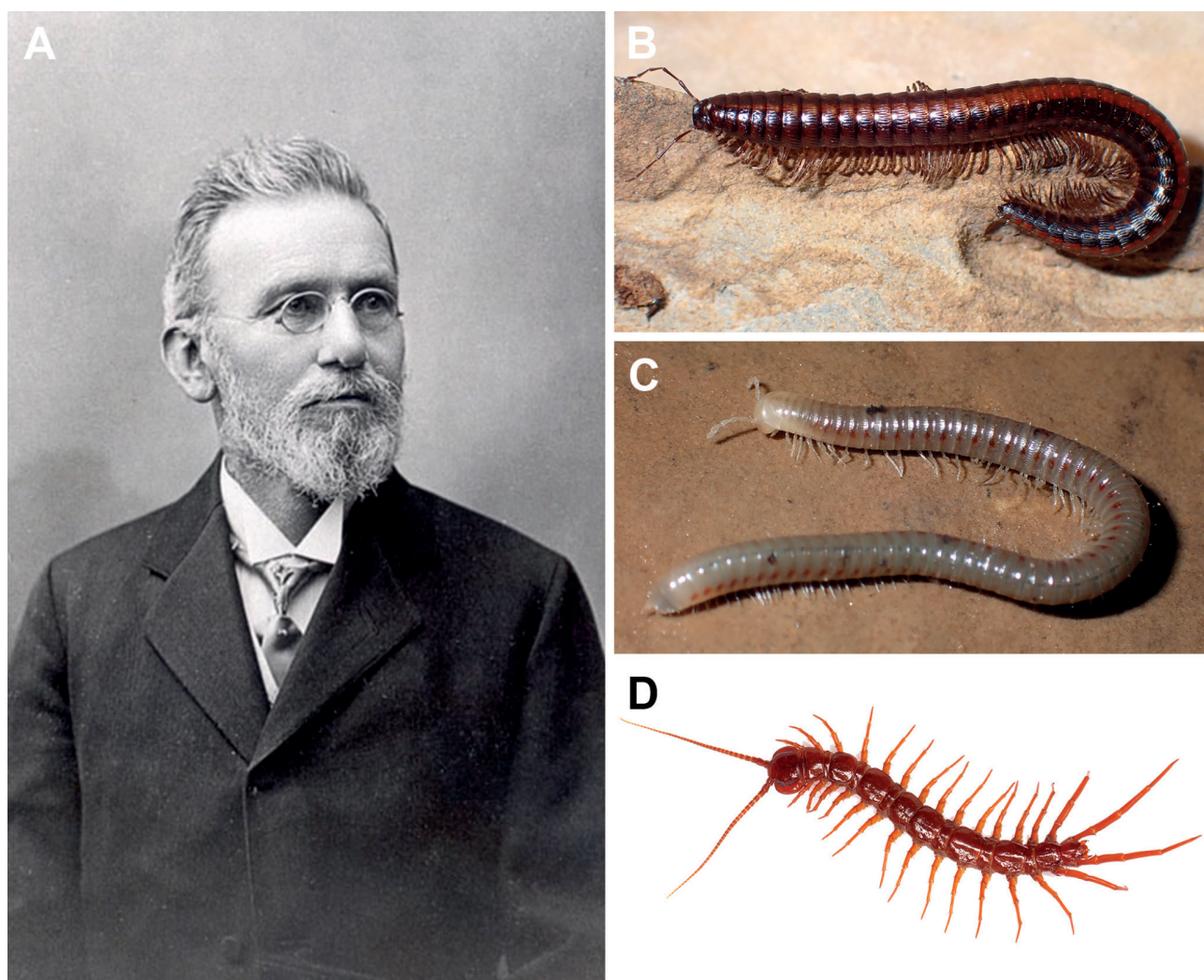


Fig. 1. Myriapodologist Robert Latzel (A) and the first three myriapods recorded and described from Serbia: *Callipodella fasciata* (Latzel, 1882) (B), *Typhloiulus strictus* (Latzel, 1882) (C) and *Eupolybothrus transsylvanicus* (Latzel, 1882) (D). Photos: Image reproduced from ZOBODAT; copyright retained by the original author (A), Dragan Antić (B, C) and Hans Reip (D).

my knowledge, the papers by Attems (1929), Remy (1943), and Dizdarević (1978) represent the only reliable sources documenting Symphyla in present-day Serbia prior to 1995, reporting a total of five species.

The pauropod fauna of Serbia is similarly poorly studied. The first—and for a long time practically the only—records of Pauropoda from Serbia prior to 1995 are found in the works of Paul Remy. In his studies, Remy (1935a, b, 1938) reported a total of eight pauropod species, all from near Sjenica, in southwestern Serbia. Subsequently, as in the case of Symphyla, Dizdarević (1978), working in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo, confirmed the presence of one of the eight species previously listed by Remy (1935a, b, 1938). A list of Symphyla and Pauropoda recorded in Serbia is provided below.

It should be noted that it is often difficult to determine

precisely the exact number of myriapod species recorded in the past that truly belong to the fauna of present-day Serbia. Many species, particularly among Chilopoda and Diplopoda, were collected in border regions, especially in areas that today are part of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. This issue is especially evident in the works of Attems (1929, 1959), who reported numerous records of these groups under the fauna of what was then considered Albania. Although political borders have changed considerably since that time, most subsequent studies have continued to treat these records as part of the Albanian fauna.

In this context, the species numbers presented in Figures 2 and 6 should be interpreted with caution, particularly for Chilopoda. These figures are presented for illustrative purposes only, in order to show general trends in research

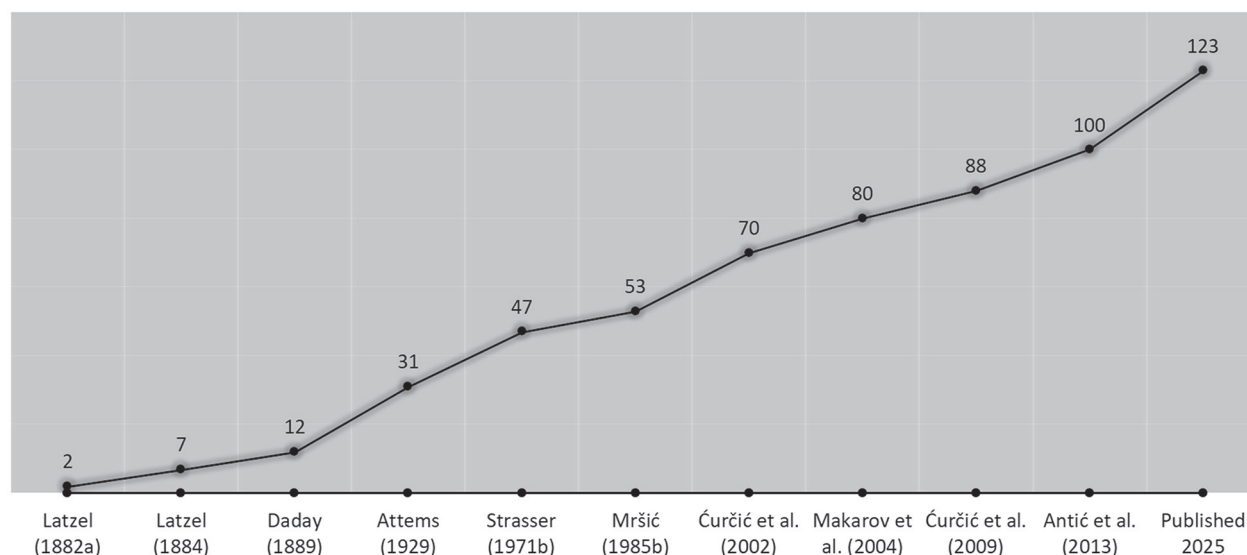


Fig. 2. The most important publications reporting the number of millipede species in Serbia.

progress; since in some later works the data are imprecise due to the reasons mentioned above, or because of the complete or partial omission of earlier studies and/or records. The final values shown in Figures 2 and 6 also include species listed by Daday (1889) and species listed by Attems (1929) under Albania but collected within the territory of present-day Serbia or in adjacent border areas; therefore, the final numbers can be considered more or less reasonable. Ultimately, it should be emphasized that these organisms are not constrained by political boundaries. Moreover, more realistic numbers can only be expected when a critical species list is compiled for Myriapoda in Serbia.

As noted above, research on myriapods in Serbia began in the late 19th century with the work of Robert Latzel and, for most of the 20th century, was carried out mainly by foreign researchers. Their faunistic and taxonomic studies established the foundations for our knowledge of Diplopoda and Chilopoda in Serbia. However, the classes Symphyla and Pauropoda were almost entirely neglected, with only a few records from the southern and southwestern parts of the country. Thus, overall, myriapod research in Serbia was fragmented and uneven until the end of the 20th century. Nevertheless, the existing studies provided a fundamental basis for future, more systematic investigations.

MODERN MYRIAPODOLOGY IN SERBIA (1995–2025)

Against the background of the previously fragmented and uneven research, myriapodology in Serbia began to develop more systematically, and gain momentum toward the end of the 20th century. This turning point coincided with

the arrival of Slobodan Makarov at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Biology in 1992 and his first publications on millipedes in 1995 (Čurčić and Makarov 1995), a year that can be regarded as the beginning of modern and systematic myriapodological research in Serbia. Through his dedication, scientific vision, and collegial approach, Slobodan gradually established a strong and cohesive research group. Over the following three decades, he formed and mentored a team of researchers spanning three generations, all professionally engaged in the study of Myriapoda. Today, this group is one of the largest myriapodological teams in the world that is based within a single institution. In addition to myriapodology, Slobodan also played a pioneering role at the Faculty of Biology by founding and developing the field of chemoeology, thereby significantly broadening the scope of zoological research at the institution.

Building on this pivotal period, the following sections present an overview of three decades of continuous and systematic research on Myriapoda in Serbia. They summarize the current knowledge of the fauna of all four classes of Myriapoda in Serbia, as well as the main scientific achievements, research areas, and methodological advances developed within this research group.

Diplopoda in Serbia

With over 13,000 described species (Decker et al. 2026), Diplopoda is the most diverse and numerous class of Myriapoda, and ranks as the third largest class within terrestrial Arthropoda, after Insecta and Arachnida. This group of arthropods includes some of the earliest colonizers of terrestrial habitats, with the oldest known fossils dating to the

late Silurian (approximately 425 million years ago) (Shear and Edgecombe 2010). Millipedes are a major component of terrestrial ecosystems worldwide, functioning primarily as decomposers and saprophagous organisms. They inhabit all continents except Antarctica. Due to their high diversity, ancient evolutionary history, and limited mobility, they are important biogeographical indicators (Hopkin and Read 1992; Golovatch and Kime 2009).

Although still insufficiently studied, the diplopod fauna of Europe is far from negligible. To date, over 1,600 species have been recorded on the continent (Kime and Enghoff 2021), with more than 700 species reported from the Balkan Peninsula (cf. Ceuca 1992). The first and only species catalogue of the 20th century focused exclusively on Serbia was compiled by Mršić (1985b), and lists 53 millipede taxa. At the beginning of the 21st century, following the more intensive work of the Belgrade Myriapodological School, the number of species recorded in Serbia first increased to 70 (Ćurčić et al. 2002), then to 80 (Makarov et al. 2004), and subsequently to 88 (Ćurčić et al. 2009). The most recent list reported 100 species (Antić et al. 2013). Since then, the number of species in the Serbian fauna has continued to grow with new species descriptions and new faunal records, reaching a total of 123 species today (Antić et al. 2014, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024a, b; Antić and Akkari 2020; Antić and Short 2023; Jovanović and Antić 2015; Jovanović et al. 2016; Šević et al. 2022a, b, 2024; Šovran et al. 2025). It is important to note that, prior to this announcement, the work of Daday (1889), which listed 12 species of millipedes from Serbia, had been completely or partially overlooked. Figure 2. shows the most important publications reporting the number of millipede species in Serbia, from Latzel (1882a) to the end of 2025. It can be concluded that over the last three decades,

the number of newly recorded millipede species in Serbia has exceeded the total number of species recorded during the entire previous century.

The 123 millipede species recorded in Serbia belong to seven orders, 20 families, and 56 genera. The largest number of species (51) was found in the order Julida, followed by 26 species in Chordeumatida and 25 species in Polydesmida. Thirteen species belong to the order Glomerida, while four, three, and one species were recorded from the orders Callipodida, Polyxenida, and Polyzoniida, respectively (Fig. 3).

It is noteworthy that 41 species are endemic or subendemic to the Balkans, while 32 species are endemic to Serbia. Furthermore, of the 12 Balkan endemic genera recorded in the country, six—all belonging to the family Anthroleucosomatidae—are endemic to Serbia. Some representatives of millipede fauna in Serbia are shown in Figure 4.

The Belgrade Myriapodological School has also devoted a significant portion of its research to subterranean habitats, particularly caves. Consequently, the underground millipede fauna of Serbia is now relatively well known, with a total of 28 troglobiont—or true cave—species recorded in the country to date (Fig. 5). These species are distributed across four orders—Glomerida, Chordeumatida, Julida, and Polydesmida—comprising six families and 13 genera. The order Glomerida is represented by a single troglobiont, *Hyleoglomeris faberi* Makarov et al., 2013 (Glomeridae) (Fig. 5A), inhabiting one cave in the Dinaric region. More than half of the cave-dwelling diplopods belong to Chordeumatida, with 15 species in two families. Anthroleucosomatidae (Fig. 5B, C) includes 12 species across six genera (*Belbogosoma* Ćurčić & Makarov, 2008, *Cornogonopus* Antić, 2020, *Dazbogossoma* Makarov & Ćurčić, 2012, *Perunosoma* Ćurčić & Makarov, 2007, *Serbosoma* Ćurčić & Makarov, 1998 and *Svarogosoma*

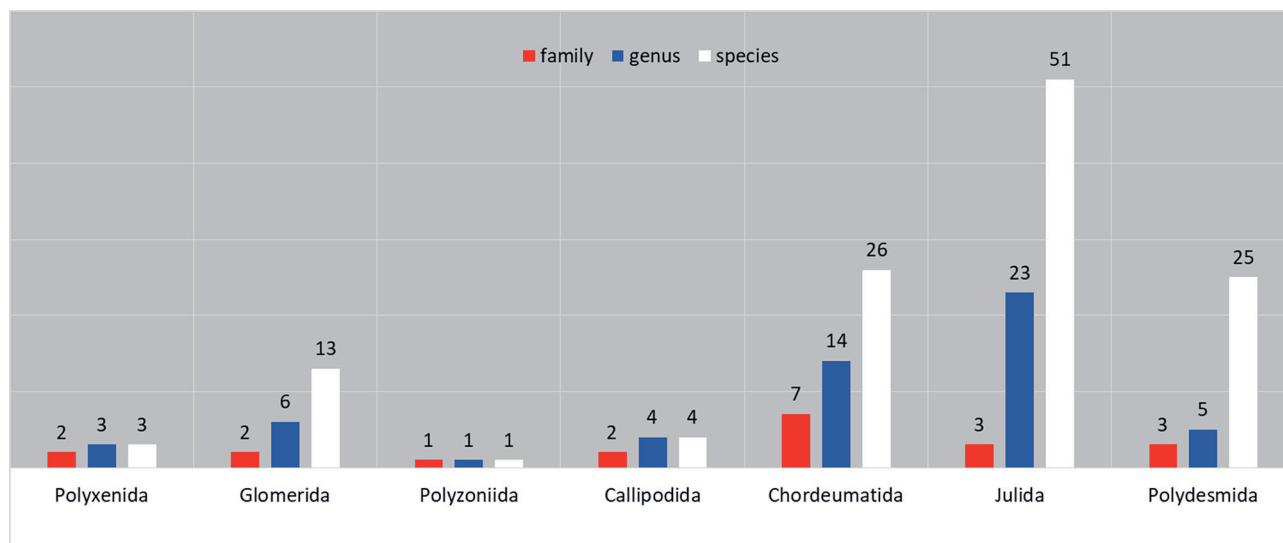


Fig. 3. Seven millipede orders in Serbia and the number of families, genera, and species in each order.



Fig. 4. Selected representatives of Diplopoda recorded in Serbia. **A**, *Lophoproctus coecus* Pocock, 1894 (Polyxenida); **B**, *Glomeris klugii* Brandt, 1833 (Glomerida); **C**, *Trachysphaera schmidtii* Heller, 1858 (Glomerida); **D**, *Polyzonium germanicum* Brandt, 1837 (Polyzoniida); **E**, *Apfelbeckia insculpta* (C. L. Koch, 1867) (Callipodida); **F**, *Craspedosoma raulinsii* Leach, 1816 (Chordeumatida); **G**, *Nemasoma varicorne* C. L. Koch, 1847 (Julida); **H**, *Cylindroiulus boleti* (C. L. Koch, 1847) (Julida); **I**, *Megaphyllum bosniense* (Verhoeff, 1897) (Julida); **J**, *Polydesmus complanatus* (Linnaeus, 1761) (Polydesmida); **K**, *Strongylosoma stigmatosum* (Eichwald, 1830) (Polydesmida). Photos: Dragan Antić.

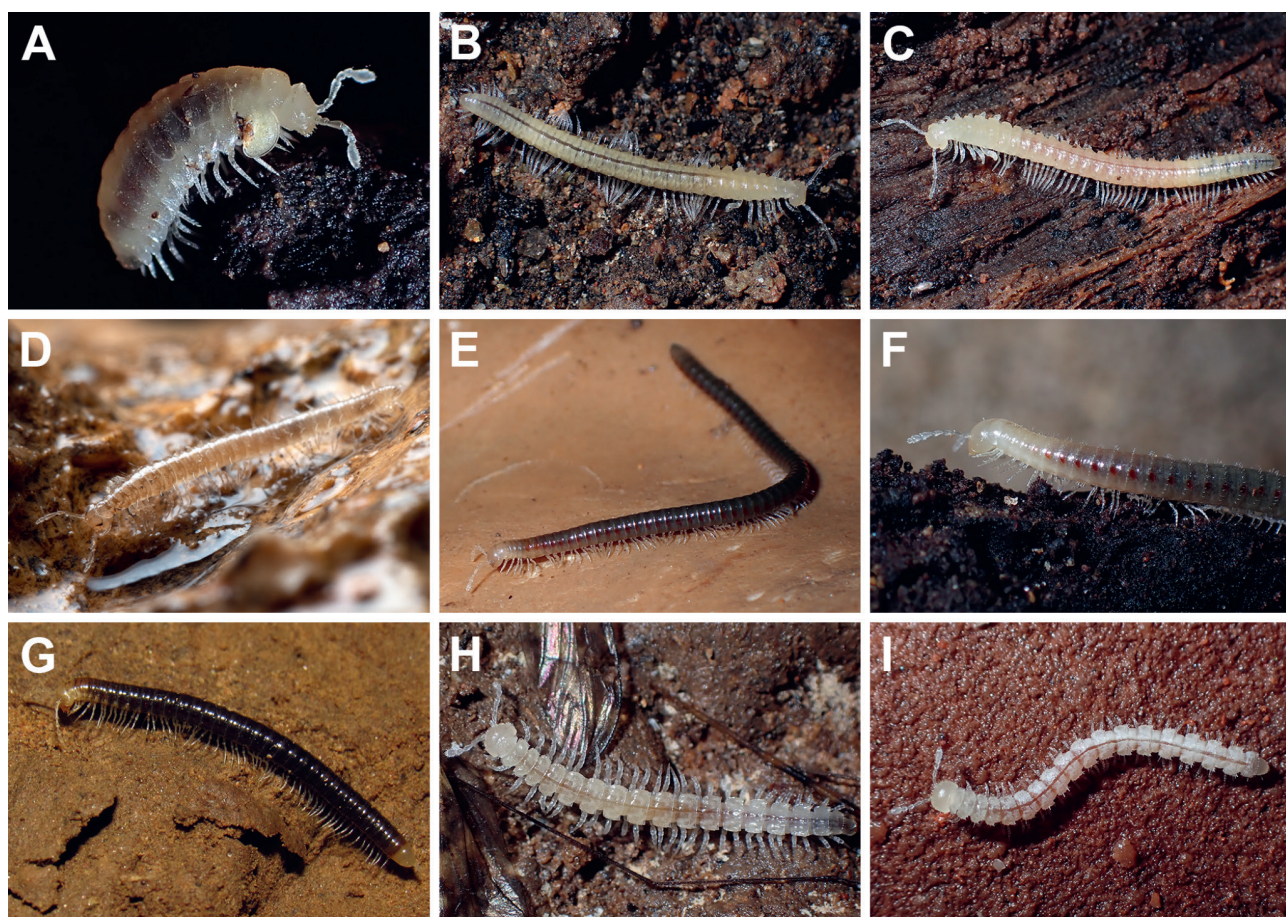


Fig. 5. Selected cave-dwelling representatives of Diplopoda recorded in Serbia. **A**, *Hyleoglomeris faberi* Makarov et al., 2013 (Glomerida); **B**, *Serbosoma lazarevse* (Ceuca, 1964) (Chordeumatida); **C**, *Dazbogosome naissi* Makarov & Ćurčić, 2012 (Chordeumatida); **D**, *Haasea microcornia* (Strasser, 1971); **E**, *Serboiulus lucifugus* Strasser, 1962; **F**, *Lamellotyphlus sotirovi* Makarov et al., 2002; **G**, *Typhloiulus balcanicus* Antić, 2017; **H**, *Brachydesmus femoralis* Makarov, 2008; **I**, *Balkanodesminus serbicus* Antić et al., 2022. Photos: Dragan Antić (A–C, E–I) and Teo Delić (D).

Makarov, 2003), all inhabiting Carpatho-Balkan caves (Šević et al. 2022a), while Haaseidae is represented by three presumed troglobionts of the genus *Haasea* Verhoeff, 1895 (Fig. 5D), two from Dinaric caves and one from Carpatho-Balkan caves (Antić and Akkari 2020). Julida comprises eight Carpatho-Balkan species from the family Julidae and three genera (*Lamellotyphlus* Tabacaru, 1976, *Serboiulus* Strasser, 1962 and *Typhloiulus* Latzel, 1884) (Fig. 5E–G) (Antić et al. 2013, 2017). Finally, Polydesmida includes four troglobiont species from two families: three Dinaric forms of *Brachydesmus* Heller, 1858 (Polydesmidae) (Fig. 5H) and *Balkanodesminus serbicus* Antić et al., 2022 (Trichopolydesmidae) (Fig. 5I) from the Carpatho-Balkan region (Antić et al. 2013, 2022).

Based on the above, it can be noted that over the past thirty years, the Belgrade Myriapodological School has driven a continuous and systematic expansion of knowledge on Serbia's millipede fauna; increasing the number of recorded species to 123 and highlighting the country's exceptional

richness in endemic and cave-dwelling taxa. Finally, it should be mentioned that nearly all of Attems' (1929) records were subsequently confirmed within the territory of present-day Serbia; therefore, the number 123 can be considered to be credible.

Chilopoda in Serbia

After the class Diplopoda, Chilopoda is the second most species-rich class within Myriapoda, with over 3,100 species described worldwide (Minelli 2011). This is a very ancient group, with fossil records dating back approximately 420 million years (Shear et al. 1998). Centipedes inhabit all continents except Antarctica and play a significant role as predators in terrestrial ecosystems (Edgecombe and Giribet 2007). To date, more than 500 species of centipedes have been recorded from Europe (Cabanillas 2023), of which roughly half occur in the Balkan Peninsula (Stoev 1997).

As with Diplopoda, the number of recorded centipede species in Serbia has increased significantly over the last three decades (Mitić 2001, 2002; Mitić and Tomić 2002; Ćurčić et al. 2009; Mitić et al. 2014; Stojanović et al. 2022) (Fig. 6).

In the most recent paper reporting the number of centipede species in Serbia, Stojanović et al. (2022) stated that 67 species are present in the county. However, as with previous works, this study omitted data provided by Daday (1889) and Attems (1929). Considering these omitted records, and based on studies published after 2022 (Stojanović 2024; Stojanović et al. 2024; Gedged et al. 2024), the number of centipede species reported in Serbia has actually increased to 77 (Fig. 6). Although some doubt remains about the exact localities cited by Attems (1929) and whether they correspond to the present-day territory of Serbia, the vast majority of these taxa have subsequently been confirmed from Serbia.

The 77 centipede species recorded in Serbia belong to four orders, nine families, and 18 genera. The largest number of species (41) is found in the order Lithobiomorpha, followed by Geophilomorpha with 30 recorded species. Scolopendromorpha and Scutigermorpha are represented with five and one species respectively (Fig. 7).

Of the total number of recorded species, 19 are Balkan endemics or subendemics, while two species are endemic to Serbia, with no endemic genera. Two species, *Lithobius lakatnicensis* Verhoeff, 1926 (Fig. 8) and *Lithobius remyi* Jawłowski, 1933, are troglobites, representing true cave-adapted organisms. Some representatives of centipede fauna in Serbia can be seen in Figure 8.

Symphyla and Pauropoda in Serbia

From the preceding paragraphs on the fauna of Diplopoda and Chilopoda, it is evident that research on these two groups in Serbia has intensified considerably over the last three decades. However, this trend does not hold for Pauropoda and Symphyla, the most understudied groups of Myriapoda, with only approximately 200 and 800 species described worldwide, respectively (Scheller 2011; Szucsich and Scheller 2011). Regarding Symphyla, only a single paper has been published during this period, reporting one species from Lazareva (= Zlotska) Cave (Ćurčić et al. 1997) and increasing the total number of symphylian taxa recorded in Serbia to six (Table 1) from both known families: Scutigeralidae (Fig. 9A) and Scolopendrelidae (Fig. 9B).

A similar situation has been observed for Pauropoda. After 1995, Scheller et al. (1997) reported one pauropod species from the cave mentioned above. More recently, Antić and Hasenhütl (2025) reported five pauropod species from Serbia, but incorrectly stated that four of them were new to the Serbian fauna, having overlooked the earlier work of Remy (1935a, b, 1938). Nevertheless, their study added two new species to the Serbian fauna; these belong to two genera previously unrecorded from Serbia, one of which also represents a new family record for the country. At the same time, they considerably expanded the known distribution of pauropods to western, central, northeastern, and eastern Serbia. Consequently, the currently known pauropod fauna of Serbia comprises 10 species (literature and new data are shown in Table 1) belonging to two families, Pauropodidae (Fig. 9C, D) and Eurypauropodidae.

It should be emphasized that, although only limited

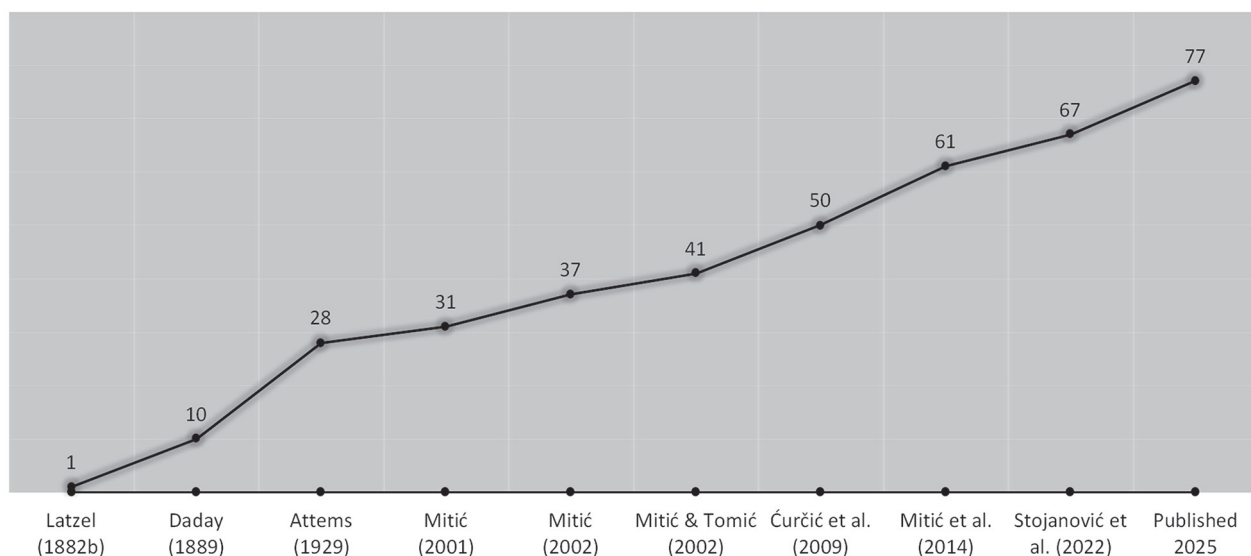


Fig. 6. The most important publications reporting the number of centipede species in Serbia.

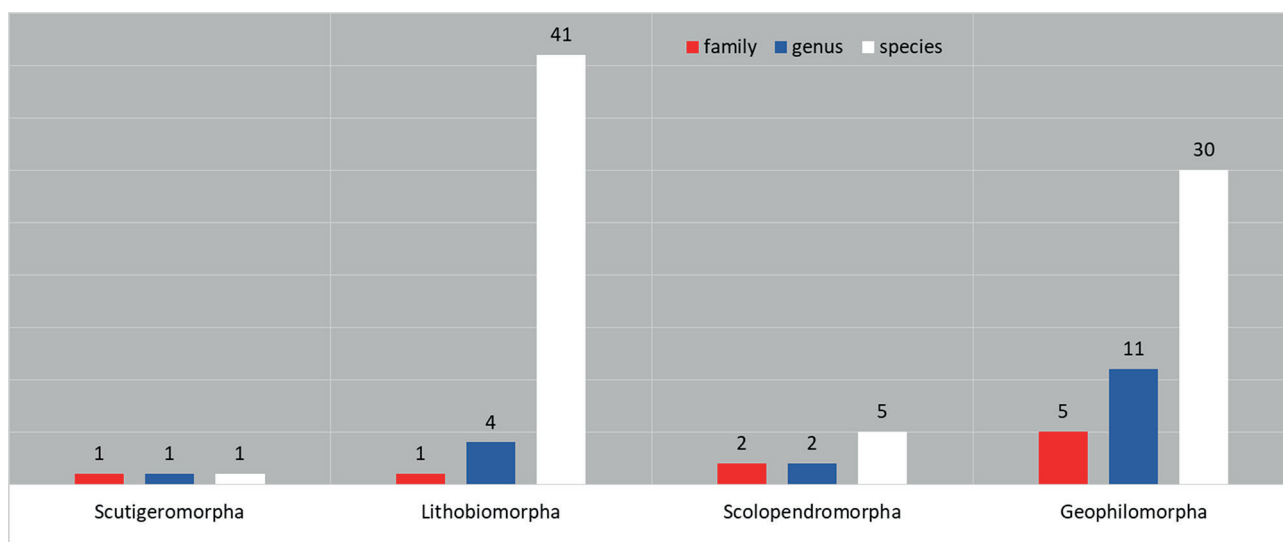


Fig. 7. Four centipede orders in Serbia and the number of families, genera, and species in each order.

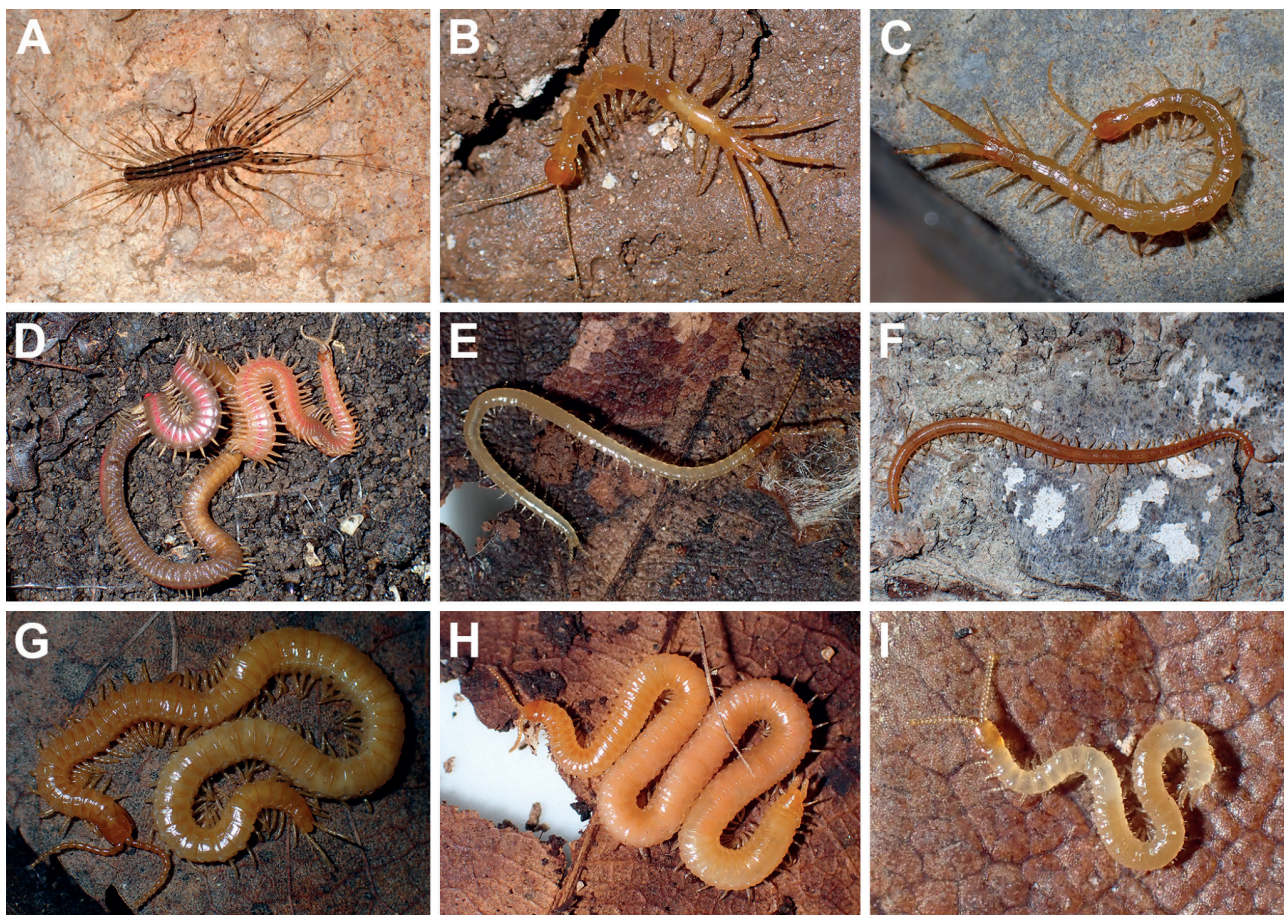


Fig. 8. Selected representatives of Chilopoda recorded in Serbia. A, *Scutigera coleoptrata* Linnaeus, 1758 (Scutigleromorpha); B, *Lithobius lakatnicensis* Verhoeff, 1926 (Lithobiomorpha); C, *Cryptops parisi* Brolemann, 1920 (Scolopendromorpha); D, *Himantarium gabrielis* (Linnaeus, 1767) (Geophilomorpha); E, *Geophilus serbicus* Stojanović, Mitić & Antić, 2019 (Geophilomorpha); F, *Strigamia transsilvanica* Verhoeff 1928 (Geophilomorpha); G, *Clinopodes flavidus* C.L. Koch, 1847 (Geophilomorpha); H, *Henia illyrica* (Meinert, 1870) (Geophilomorpha); I, *Schendyla antici* Stojanović, 2024 (Geophilomorpha). Photos: Dragan Antić.

Table 1. Symphyla and Pauropoda in Serbia.

SYMPHYLA	Family	Localities and references
<i>Hanseniella nivea</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	Scutigerellidae	Ljubeten (Attems 1929); Bare near Sjenica; Buđevo near Sjenica (Remy 1943)
<i>Scutigerella causeyae</i> Michelbacher, 1942	Scutigerellidae	Lazareva Cave (Ćurčić et al. 1997)
<i>Scutigerella immaculata</i> (Newport, 1845)	Scutigerellidae	Kačanik (Attems 1929); Sjenica (Remy 1943)
<i>Geophilella pyrenaica</i> Ribaut, 1913	Scolopendrellidae	Peć (Dizdarević 1978)
<i>Scolopendrellopsis subnuda</i> (Hansen, 1903)	Scolopendrellidae	Peć; between Kosovska Mitrovica and Raška (Dizdarević 1978)
<i>Symphylella vulgaris</i> (Hansen, 1903)	Scolopendrellidae	Ljubeten (Attems 1929); Peć; between Kosovska Mitrovica and Raška (Dizdarević 1978); Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1943)
PAUROPODA	Family	Localities and references
<i>Decapauropus furcula</i> (Silvestri, 1902)	Pauropodidae	Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1938)
<i>Decapauropus gracilis</i> (Hansen, 1902)	Pauropodidae	Sjenica (Remy 1935a); Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1938); Buronov Ponor Cave; Šumarice near Kragujevac [new localities; species reported by Antić & Hasenhütl (2025)]
<i>Decapauropus helophorus</i> (Remy, 1936)	Pauropodidae	Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1938)
<i>Decapauropus pectinatus</i> (Hansen, 1902)	Pauropodidae	Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1938)
<i>Decapauropus sequanus</i> (Remy, 1930)	Pauropodidae	Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1938)
<i>Decapauropus vulgaris</i> (Hansen, 1902)	Pauropodidae	Sjenica (Remy 1935a)
<i>Pauropus furcifer</i> Silvestri, 1902	Pauropodidae	Sjenica (Remy 1935a); Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1935b, 1938); Lazareva Cave (Scheller et al. 1997); Seništa near Nova Varoš; Čoka Rakita near Žagubica; Ada Ciganlija, Belgrade [new localities; species reported by Antić & Hasenhütl (2025)]
<i>Scleropauropus hastifer</i> Silvestri, 1902	Pauropodidae	Čoka Rakita near Žagubica [new locality; species reported by Antić & Hasenhütl (2025)]
<i>Stylopauropus pedunculatus</i> (Lubbock, 1867)	Pauropodidae	Sjenica; Buđevo near Sjenica (Remy 1935a); Bare near Sjenica (Remy 1938); Cerjanska Cave; Tara; Seništa near Nova Varoš [new localities; species reported by Antić & Hasenhütl (2025)]
<i>Trachypauropus</i> sp.	Eurypauropodidae	Ivanjica [new locality; species reported by Antić & Hasenhütl (2025)]

work has been conducted on the symphylian and pauropod fauna of Serbia to date, members of the Belgrade Myriapodological School have, in recent years, made considerable efforts to collect representatives of these groups throughout the country. A substantial amount of currently unprocessed material is expected to be examined in the near future, which will significantly improve our knowledge of these two groups of myriapods in Serbia.

Myriapod taxa described by Serbian myriapodologists

Over the past three decades, Serbian myriapodologists have made substantial contributions to the study of millipede

fauna, describing 130 species new to science, 105 of which were described within the last 15 years. More than half of these species belong to the order Chordeumatida (73 species), followed by Julida (34 species), Polydesmida (19 species), and Glomerida (four species). The temporal dynamics of species descriptions are illustrated in Figure 10. All newly described species originate from the Palearctic region, with distributions ranging from the Iberian Peninsula to Central Asia. Most species were described from the Caucasus (62 species) and the Balkan Peninsula (59 species).

In addition, Serbian myriapodologists have described 35 new millipede genera: 27 in Chordeumatida, five in Polydesmida, two in Julida, and one in Glomerida. Finally, two

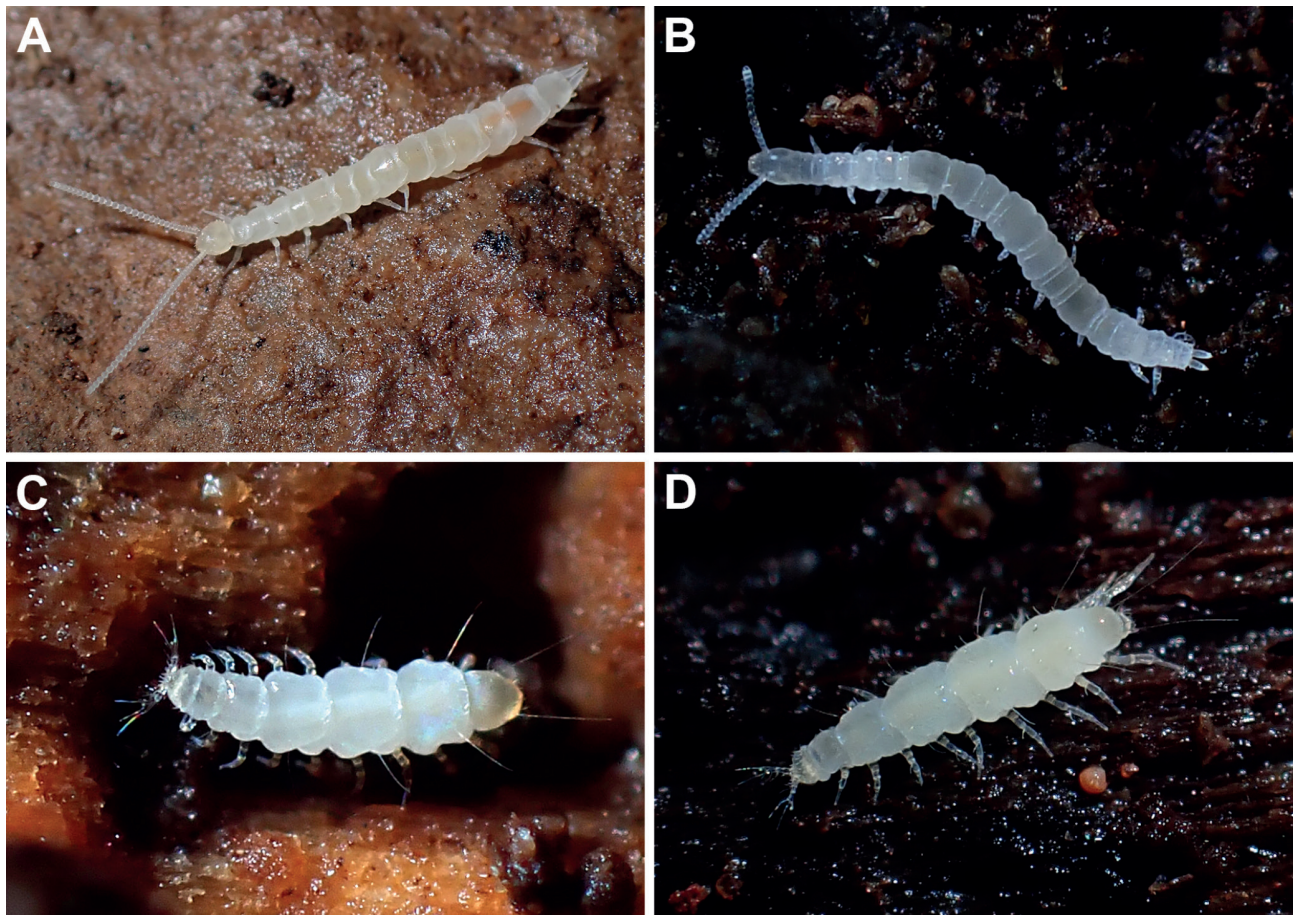


Fig. 9. Selected representatives of Symphyla (A, B) and Pauropoda (C, D) recorded in Serbia. A, Scutigereidae; B, Scolopendrellidae; C, *Pauropus furcifer* Silvestri, 1902; D, *Stylopauropus pedunculatus* (Lubbock, 1867). Photos: Dragan Antić.

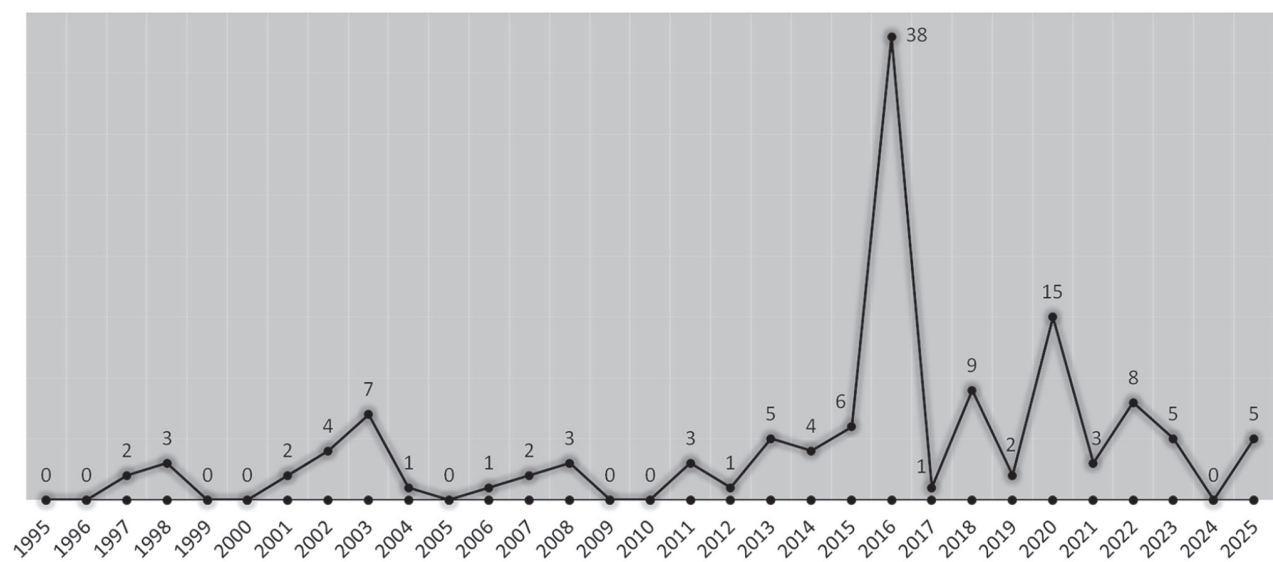


Fig. 10. Dynamics of millipede species descriptions by Serbian authors.

new families within the order Chordeumatida—Dalmatosomatidae Antić & Makarov, 2018, and Guipuzcosomatidae Antić & Mauriès, 2022—have been established.

All publications describing these taxa are listed in the bibliography below.

To date, Serbian authors have described three centipede species: one belonging to Lithobiomorpha, *Lithobius radjai* Stojanović, Antić & Makarov, 2021, and two belonging to Geophilomorpha, *Geophilus serbicus* Stojanović, Mitić & Antić, 2019 and *Schendyla antici* Stojanović, 2024 (Stojanović et al. 2019, 2021, 2024).

Research fields and bibliography of Serbian myriapodologists

In addition to their work on myriapod taxonomy and fauna, Serbian myriapodologists have actively contributed to other areas of terrestrial arthropod research over the past three decades, including the study and description of Pseudoscorpiones, Diplura, Collembola, and Coleoptera. As noted above, they have also advanced biospeleological research, primarily within Serbia. Some Serbian myriapodologists are involved in the protection of cave habitats and their fauna. As a result of many years of fieldwork in Serbian caves, publication of the Red Book of Terrestrial Cave Arthropods of Serbia is expected in the near future.

One of the notable research fields initiated by the group in 2009 is chemoecology. Our team collaborates with colleagues across Serbia as well as with the chemoecology group at the University of Graz. The main focus of these studies is the identification of components in the defensive secretions

of Diplopoda and Chilopoda, which are also applied to questions of taxonomy and phylogeny within these groups. In some cases, new natural products have been discovered, either novel or previously unreported in nature, such as farnesyl 2,3-dihydrofarnesoate (an isoprenoid ester), farnesyl farnesoate (a sesquiterpenoid ester), himantarine (3,7,6O-trimethylguanine), isolated from the glands of *Himantarium gabrielis* (Linnaeus, 1767), and julidone (a ketone), obtained from the glands of two Caucasian julid species (Vujisić et al. 2013; Makarov et al. 2025). Building on these chemical studies, research has also addressed the biological activity of these secretions, including their antimicrobial properties and their ability to inhibit or kill various microorganisms, such as fungi and bacteria. Secretion extracts are further employed in toxicological studies, for instance, in a project investigating the effects of julid extract on the development of zebrafish embryos.

Additional research focuses on the embryonic and post-embryonic development of Chilopoda and Diplopoda, as well as on behavioral and reproductive biology. While the team is active in other areas, the above-mentioned topics constitute the primary focus of its current work.

As a result of three decades of research on Myriapoda across various fields, members of the Belgrade Myriapodological School published a total of 173 papers and popular science articles wholly or partly devoted to these organisms during the period 1995–2025 (Fig. 11).

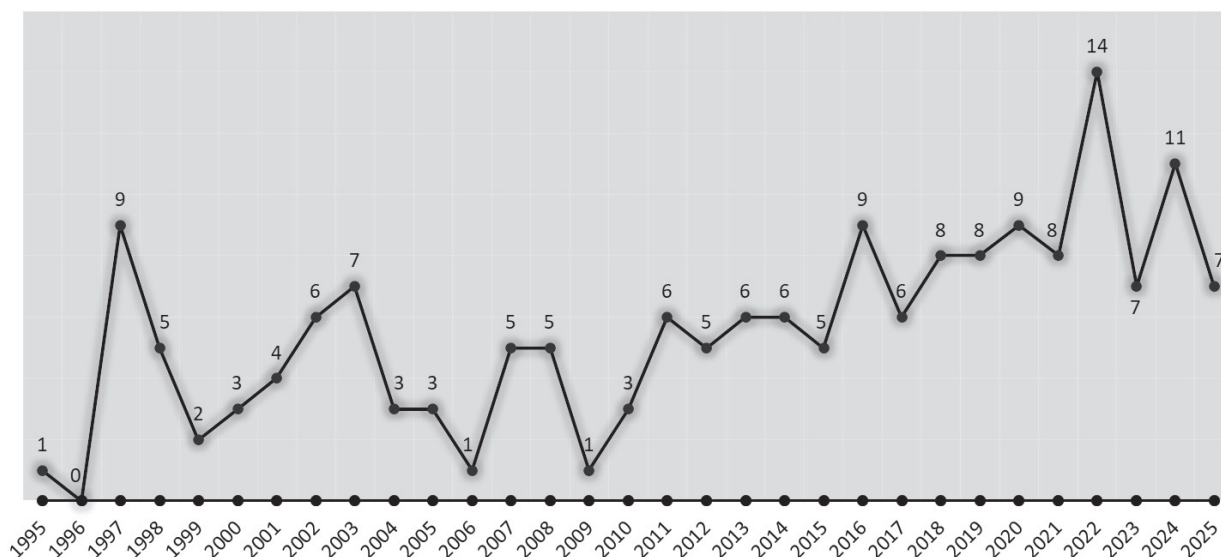


Fig. 11. Number of papers published by Serbian myriapodologists per year (1995–2025).

1995 (one paper)

1. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1995. The occurrence of swarming in *Megaphyllum unilineatum* (C. L. Koch, 1838) (Diplopoda: Julidae), with observation on a case of pedal anomaly. Archives of Biological Sciences. 47(1–2):67–70.

1997 (nine papers)

2. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1997. Postembryonic development and life history of *Brachydesmus dadayii* (Verhoeff) (Diplopoda: Polydesmidae) from Yugoslavia. Archives of Biological Sciences. 49(1–2):7–8.
3. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1997. *Brachydesmus (Stylobrachydesmus) avalae*, a new endemic millipede (Diplopoda, Polydesmidae) from Serbia (Yugoslavia). Archives of Biological Sciences. 49(3–4):33–34.
4. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1997. The taxonomic identity of *Bulgarosoma crucis crucis* Strasser and *B. crucis lazarevensis* Ceuca (Diplopoda: Anthroleucosomatidae) from Serbia, Yugoslavia. Archives of Biological Sciences. 49(3–4):129–138.
5. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1997. Diversification and biogeographic features of millipedes in Serbia, Yugoslavia (Diplopoda). In: Enghoff H, editor. Many-legged animals - A collection of papers on Myriapoda and Onychophora. Entomologica scandinavica, Supplement. 51:191–198.
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1998 (five papers)

11. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1998. Endemic differentiation of millipedes (Diplopoda, Myriapoda) in Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia: taxonomic implications. Revue Suisse de Zoologie. 105:742–743.
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13. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1998. Postembryonic development in *Brachydesmus troglobius* Daday (Diplopoda: Polydesmidae) from Yugoslavia. Archives of Biological Sciences. 50(1):9–10.
14. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE. 1998. Three new endemic species of the millipede genus *Bulgarosoma* Verhoeff (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida: Anthroleucosomatidae) from east Serbia. Archives of Biological Sciences. 50(1):51–61.
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1999 (two papers)

16. Ćurčić BPM, Makarov SE, Karaman IM, Dimitrijević RN, Ćurčić SB. 1999. Some comments on the diplopods (Diplopoda, Myriapoda) from Yugoslavia. Part 1 - Glomerida. Archives of Biological Sciences. 51(1):11–12.
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2000 (three papers)

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2003 (seven papers)

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2007 (five papers)

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CONCLUSION

In summary, the period from 1995 to 2025 marks a phase of remarkable growth and diversification of the group's myriapodological research. During these three decades, studies expanded from classical faunistics and taxonomy to integrative approaches encompassing systematics, phylogeny, chemoecology, developmental biology, physiology, behavior, conservation and applied biological research. The group significantly advanced knowledge of Diplopoda and Chilopoda in Serbia and the wider region through the description of numerous new taxa, the recognition of new genera and families, and the refinement of species distributions. At the same time, chemoecological studies have provided novel insights into defensive secretions, their biological activity, and their relevance for evolutionary and systematic interpretations. Altogether, these achievements establish a solid foundation for future research.

A notable culmination of the group's three decades of work is the introduction of the undergraduate elective course, The Biology of Myriapoda, at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Biology in the 2023/2024 academic year, offered to first-year students, as well as the organization of the jubilee 20th International Congress of Myriapodology, held in Serbia in 2025.

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