

SCIENTIFIC NOTE
**INTRODUCTION OF THE MILLIPED,
HELICORTHOMORPHA HOLSTII, IN FLORIDA
(POLYDESMIDA: PARADOXOSOMATIDAE)¹**

Rowland M. Shelley², G. B. Edwards³

In the continental United States, the milliped family Paradoxosomatidae is represented by four allochthonous species: *Oxidus gracilis* (C. L. Koch), occurring throughout the country and in Canada; *Asiomorpha coarctata* (Saussure), in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas; *Akamptogonus novarae* (Humbert and Saussure), in California; and *Chondromorpha xanthotricha* (Attems), in Texas (Shelley et al. 1998, Hoffman 1999, Shelley 2001).

A fifth species, *Helicorthomorpha holstii* (Pocock), was discovered on 19 September 2000 by Barbara J. Wilder and Anthony N. Capitano of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, in a heavily infested one-acre greenhouse. Numerous specimens were found in pots of sphagnum moss around *Catleya*, *Oncidium*, and *Phalaenopsis* orchid plants at Foxpoint Farms nursery in Clarcona, Orange County, Florida. The sphagnum apparently came from the Okefenokee area of Florida/Georgia, while some of the orchids had been imported as small specimens from Taiwan (others were locally grown). The orchids were imported in a "bare root" condition, without substrate in which the millipeds could hide, causing us to wonder if eggs might have been on the plants.

This milliped is not reported from Taiwan, but it does occur in China, the Ryu-Kyu Islands, Viet Nam, and Hong Kong, in that part of the world; it has also been encountered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in association with a Bonsai plant from Hong Kong (Shelley and Lehtinen 1998). Whatever the origin of the infestation, it is quite heavy, and this nursery is shipping orchids throughout Florida thereby potentially spreading the millipeds. One *Phalaenopsis* that was sampled had 30 individuals in the associated sphagnum. Although not yet encountered outside the nursery, the likelihood that this will happen seems so high that we think *H. holstii* should be added to the Florida milliped fauna as detailed by Shelley (2000), bringing the total composition to 51 species. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the authors' institutional collections; diagnostic illustrations of *H. holstii* are available in Shelley and Lehtinen (1998, figs. 22-24).

LITERATURE CITED

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² Research Lab., North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, 4301 Reedy Creek Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607.

³ Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Division of Plant Industry, P. O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100.



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