

## Significant New Distribution Records for the Centipede, *Theatops posticus* (Say) (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha: Cryptopidae), from Oklahoma, with Four New Records from the Ark-La-Tex

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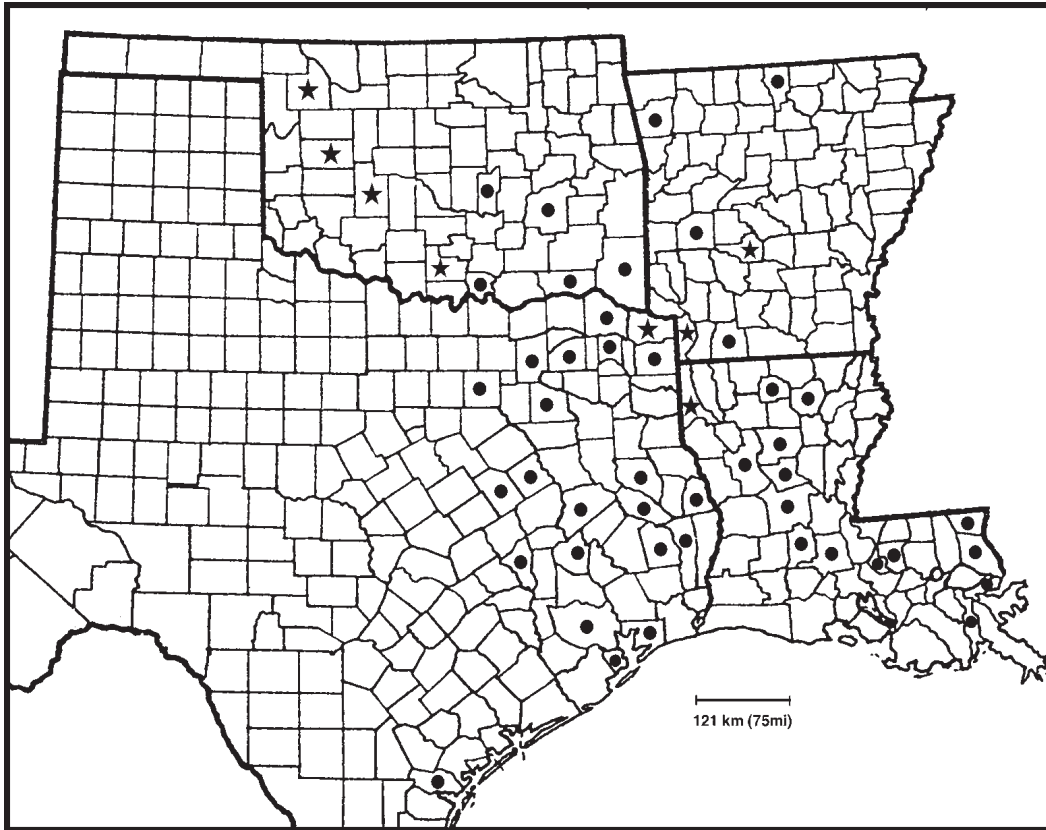
Shelley (2002) provided a synopsis of the North American centipedes of the order Scolopendromorpha that includes an indigenous fauna of three families, eight genera, and 21 species. In addition, McAllister et al (2003) reported 43 county records for eight species from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. One of these scolopendromorphs, *Theatops posticus* (Say 1821), was reported by Shelley (2002) to consist of two allopatric populations; an eastern one that extends westward from the Atlantic Coastal Plain to Seminole County, in the eastern one-third of Oklahoma (specimen collected in 1931; see Shelley 1997), and a southwestern population in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, and northwestern Mexico (Shelley 1990). In Oklahoma, *T. posticus* has also been reported from Pittsburg County (collected in 1952) in the east-central part of the state (Shelley 2002) and, more recently, was collected in Choctaw, Marshall, and McCurtain counties, in southcentral and southeastern Oklahoma, respectively (McAllister et al 2003).

On 12 September 2003, C. T. McAllister collected an individual of *T. posticus* from Woodward County in northwestern Oklahoma from beneath a rock at the entrance to Owl Cave, 9.6 km south of Freedom, off State Highway 50A, in Alabaster Caverns State Park. Habitat in this general area consisted of rock and mineral formations in ravines and gorges of mixed-grass prairie and wooded areas along water courses. This site

is more than 280 kilometers northwest of the closest previous record in Seminole County and represents the westernmost record of an indigenous east-Nearctic scolopendromorph species in the family Cryptopidae aside from the aforementioned western population of *T. posticus*. In addition, on 8 November 2003, M. L. Cameron collected a *T. posticus* from Caddo County in the vicinity of Fort Cobb State Park off State Highway 146, one from Custer County at Foss Reservoir State Park off State Highway 73, and another on 6 November 2004 from Carter County at Lake Murray State Park off State Highway 77S.

In addition to the above records for Oklahoma, four additional *T. posticus* were collected as follows in the Ark-La-Tex: Arkansas, Hot Spring County, off State Highway 128, 10 June 2004, M. L. Cameron, and Miller County, Texarkana at Nix Creek, 15 November 2003, S. F. Barclay; Louisiana, Caddo Parish, vicinity Ida, off US 71 and Munnerlyn Chapel Road, 24 October 2003, Z. D. Ramsey; Texas, Bowie County, Bringle Lake, off FM 1397, 14 March 2004, M. L. Cameron. These represent new county records for both states and most importantly, the first record of *T. posticus* from northwestern Louisiana (Fig. 1).

In summary, *T. posticus* has now been documented from nine of Oklahoma's 77 counties (Fig. 1). Additional collecting in far western Oklahoma and further west into the panhandle of Texas may provide further



**Figure 1.** Distribution of *Theatops posticus* in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Previous records (dots); new records from Caddo, Carter, Custer, and Woodward counties, Oklahoma, Hot Spring and Miller counties, Arkansas, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and Bowie County, Texas (stars).

records for cryptopid scolopendromorphs and a more extensive range than previously known for *T. posticus*. Specimens are deposited in the invertebrate collection at the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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