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A New Diplopod of the Genus *Caralinda* Hoffman from South Carolina (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae)

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ABSTRACT

Caralinda fabalecta, n. sp., the fifth representative of the genus and the first from north of the Savannah River, is described from specimens collected in Hampton County, South Carolina. It is related to *C. beatrix* Hoffman from southern Georgia, the most geographically proximate species

The xystodesmid milliped genus *Caralinda* is one of several southeastern taxa that are prominent in cooler seasons of the year and have been poorly collected because little field work has taken place from October to March. It is represented in the Coastal Plain physiographic province of southern Georgia, southeastern Alabama, and the northern Florida panhandle by four species: *C. beatrix* Hoffman (1978), and *C. pulchritecta*, *C. causeyae*, and *C. dactylifera*, authored by Shelley (1979, 1983). I put on record here a fifth species and the first from north of the Savannah River, which extends the generic range some 145 miles (232 km) northeastward from the northernmost known site, the type locality of *C. beatrix* in Tift County, Georgia.

Caralinda fabalecta, new species

Figs. 1-2

TYPE SPECIMENS. Male holotype and juvenile male paratype (North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences) collected by J. C. Beane and S. L. Alford on 3 March 2000 ca. 3 mi (4.8 km) W Garnett, in the James K. Webb Wildlife Management Area, Hampton County, South Carolina.

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DIAGNOSIS. Characterized by following gonopodal characters: prefemoral process leaning caudad, apically expanded and subbifurcate; acropodite with overhanging, apical hood, prostatic groove opening on medial surface on short, acute termination of acropodal ridge, without distinct solenomere.

HOLOTYPE. Length 22.7 mm, maximum width 5.5 mm, W/L ratio 22.6%.

Color in life a general testaceous base color with scattered dark flecks concentrated in three longitudinal stripes running entire length of dorsum - a narrow, black middorsal stripe with two broad, brown subcontinuous stripes along inner edges of paranota. Antennae light brown; epicranium dark mottled brown fading out in interantennal region, genae and clypeus white. Structural details similar to those of *C. beatrix* with following exceptions:

Width across genal apices 2.6 mm, interantennal isthmus ca. 0.8 mm, epicranial suture distinct. Antennae relatively long, reaching back to midlength of 4th tergite, relative lengths of antennomeres 2>3>4=5=6>1>7. Genae with slight medial impressions. Facial setae as follows: epicranial and interantennal not detected, subantennal 1-1, about 4-4 scattered setae of varying lengths in frontoclypeal region, clypeal about 6-6, labral about 10-10.

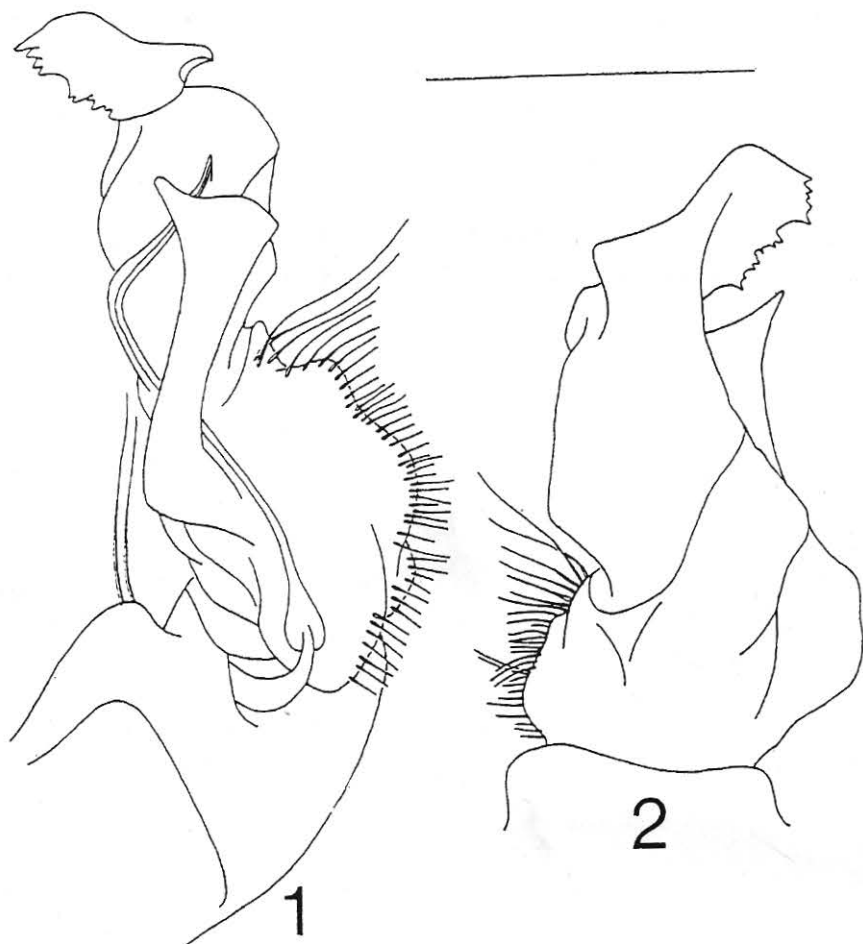
Terga smooth, polished. Collum not extending beyond ends of following tergite. Paranota slightly declined, caudolateral corners blunt through segment 13, extended and becoming progressively acuminate on remaining segments.

Sternum of segment 4 with short, ventrally directed process; that of segment 5 with low, hirsute ridge between 4th legs and low, hirsute knobs subtending 5th coxae; that of segment 6 flat, recessed to accommodate gonopodal telopodites, wider than sterna of anterior segments. Postgonopodal sterna with small, hirsute lobes subtending both pairs of coxae through segment 16.

Gonopodal aperture very broad, caudal edge raised and flared laterally. Gonopods (Figs. 1-2) relatively large in proportion to body size, extending forward in parallel arrangement to anterior margin of 6th segment, apices of prefemoral processes overlapping. Prefemur about half of telopodite length, separated from acropodite by narrow cingulum; prefemoral process leaning caudad, extending for over 2/3 of telopodite length, apically expanded, subbifurcate. Acropodite with ridge on medial surface carrying prostatic groove, latter opening on minute, acute termination of ridge, without distinct solenomere, with overhanging apical hood, margin irregularly serrate.

ECOLOGY. The type specimens were discovered under a pine log in a grassy clearing near office buildings at the Wildlife Management Area. The general habitat is longleaf pine flatwoods with occasional mixed hardwoods and some loblolly and slash pine. The area appears to be burned every two or so years.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from the type locality.



Figs. 1-2. *Caralinda fabalecta*. 1, left gonopod of holotype, medial view. 2, telopodite of the same, lateral view. Scale line = 1.00 mm for fig. 1, 0.75 mm for fig. 2.

REMARKS. As evidenced by the apical telopodal hoods and the similarly configured prefemoral processes, *C. fabalecta* is related to *C. beatrix*; it is distinguished by the absence of a solenomere. Its occurrence in southeastern South Carolina indicates that adults of *Caralinda* should be expected surface-active throughout the Coastal Plain of Georgia in cooler months. The specific name, a neologism of two Latin words (*faba* + *lectus*) meaning "collected by a bean", honors J. C. Beane, who has collected many millipeds for me over the past 15 years.

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