

## ミミズの手帳

この欄は、土壌動物に少しでも関連のことでしたら、会員のだれでも投稿できる気楽な頁です。短い観察記録、意見、書籍紹介、ニュース、会員の動静、資料や標本の提供・交換依頼などいつでも気楽に利用して下さい。ただし、原稿は1件につき1,200字程度にまとめて下さい。

### **The Chinese red-headed centipede *Scolopendra mutilans* (Chilopoda: Scolopendridae) is a predator of the terrestrial macrophagous leech *Orobdella whitmani* (Hirudinida: Orobdellidae)**

We report herein the depredation of a terrestrial leech by an individual of a centipede species. At 02:07 JST on 24 May 2018, the first author observed a scolopendrid individual preying on a terrestrial leech, in a cemetery adjacent to a laurel forest in Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan (35.0223°N, 135.7975°E; elev. 104 m). Both the centipede and leech were collected and transported to the laboratory. The centipede was directly preserved in absolute ethanol, while the leech was preserved in

70% ethanol, following Nakano (2018). The specimens have been deposited in the Zoological Collection of Kyoto University (KUZ). The centipede (KUZ Z2024; body length, 80.1 mm) was identified as *Scolopendra mutilans* L. Koch, 1878, based on Shinohara *et al.* (2015) and Kang *et al.* (2017). The leech (KUZ Z2023; body length, 86.8 mm) was identified as *Orobdella whitmani* Oka, 1895 by the last author.

During the observation in the field, *S. mutilans* was found biting the posterior area around the caudal sucker of *O. whitmani* (Fig. 1). The leech was struggling against the depredation event. Although the first author closely approached the two individuals and took several photographs, *S. mutilans* continued to feed on the leech for 7 min, at which point the organisms were collected by the first author.

*Scolopendra mutilans* is an aggressive predator that feeds primarily on arthropods and envenomates its prey (Dugon and



Fig. 1. Depredation of *Orobdella whitmani* by *Scolopendra mutilans*.

Arthur, 2012). Scolopendromorph centipedes can also feed on earthworms and even small vertebrates (Voigtländer, 2011). *Orobdella* leeches, which are indigenous to the Far East, feeds on earthworms (Nakano, 2017). However, our knowledge of the predators of *Orobdella* has been severely limited. Although predation of *Orobdella* leeches by the burrowing snake, *Achalinus spinalis* Peters, 1869, was once mentioned, this predator record was just based on a personal communication (Shibata, 1968). The present discovery elucidates the predator-prey relationship between scolopendrid centipedes and terrestrial *Orobdella* leeches.

### References

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Fig. 1 is shown in color online; printed in black-and-white.