

An initial systematics survey of the common harpagophorid millipede *Thyropygus allevatus* (Karsch, 1881) in Thailand

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The family Harpagophoridae is the common cylindrical millipedes occurring throughout Thailand. It plays a very important role in the ecosystem by consuming leave litter and excretes small faecal pellets which become natural fertilisers. The recent paper by Enghoff (2005) reported 6 genera and 21 species found in many areas of Thailand. *Thyropygus allevatus* is a very common species distributed all over the country but they apparently have low dispersal capacity. The current conventional classification using gonopod characteristic indicate several subspecies occur throughout the country with many more variation of recent collected specimens. *T. allevatus* seem to be a good material for evolutionary study. An initial analysis using allozyme shows the interesting research question to be further investigated. The low heterozygosity ($H_{exp} = 0.031 - 0.189$, mean = 0.076) and relatively low genetic heterogeneity ($F_{st} = 0.244$), among specimens collected from the Central and the Southern parts of Thailand, suggest frequent gene flows among these populations.