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1928 (Platydesmida: Andrognathidae)

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A third locality for the milliped *Mitocybe auriportae* Cook and Loomis, 1928 (Platydesmida: Andrognathidae)

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Abstract. With the discovery of *Mitocybe auriportae* Cook and Loomis, 1928 (Platydesmida: Andrognathidae) in Alameda County (Co.), east of San Francisco Bay, a potential overall distribution in coastal California is projected based on those of partly congruent diplopods. The area extends from northern Mendocino to central Monterey cos. and inland to central Lake, Yolo, and Santa Clara cos.

Keywords. California, distribution, San Francisco Bay.

Introduction

Despite repeated efforts to find it, the milliped *Mitocybe auriportae* Cook and Loomis, 1928 (Platydesmida: Andrognathidae), was not rediscovered for 82 years after the types were described from Marin County (Co.), California (Cook and Loomis 1928; Chamberlin and Hoffman 1958; Buckett 1964; Gardner 1975; Hoffman 1999; Shelley 2002, 2010). In the last work (Shelley 2010), I reported a female of *Mitocybe* Cook and Loomis, 1928 from a cave in Santa Cruz Co. that I assigned to *M. auriportae*, but its specific identity is uncertain in the absence of an adult male. As Cook and Loomis (1928) published only uninformative, low-power sketches of a leg and the gonopods and Gardner (1975) characterized *M. auriportae* by only somatic features, I borrowed all existing types, redescribed both the genus and species, and provided external photos along with drawings of both gonopods under high magnifications, thereby allowing accurate determinations for the first time. It is a slender, pallid, thread-like milliped, no larger than leaf veins and mycelial filaments, and hence is difficult to spot in litter and among leaves. Devoid of lobes, pustules, and dorsal ornamentations, *M. auriportae* possesses a velveteen pilosity that is so short and dense as to appear non-existent in dorsal view. While recently perusing material in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), Gainesville, I discovered a third sample, again with a single female, that I likewise assign to *M. auriportae*. The curled, fragmented individual consists of the head and some 92 segments including the epiproct, and is approximately 26.6 mm long with a maximum width of 1.3 mm. Locality data are as follows: CALIFORNIA: *Alameda Co.*, Berkeley, 9 May 1947, F. H. P. Chandler (FSCA).

Coupled with prior records, the new site, around 32 km (20 mi) east-southeast of the type locality and 96 km (60 mi) north-northeast of that in Santa Cruz Co., establishes *M. auriportae* on all sides of San Francisco Bay (Fig. 1). Though only three sites are known, they suggest an overall distribution similar to those of *Glomeroides primus* (Silvestri, 1929) (Glomerida: Glomeridae), *Paeromopus angusticeps angusticeps* (Wood, 1864) (Julida: Paeromopodidae), *Tynomma mutans* (Chamberlin, 1910) (Callipodida: Schizopetalidae), and/or *Xystocheir dissecta* (Wood, 1867) (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae) (Shelley 1994, 1996a, b, 2002; Shelley and Bauer 1997; Shelley and Golovatch 2011). These species, also centering around San Francisco Bay, spread varying distances north and south through the wet coastal California forests. The most widespread, *X. dissecta*, extends north to northern Mendocino Co. and south to west-central Monterey Co. Occurrences to the east are much narrower, generally only to eastern Alameda and Contra Costa and perhaps also southwestern Yolo cos., because environmental conditions quickly become dry as one enters the rain shadow of the Coast Range and the central California valleys. Although difficult to find and collect, *M. auriportae* may plausibly be expected in the general coastal area outlined in Fig. 1.

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Figure 1. Known and potential distributions of *Mitocybe auriportae*. Dots, published records; Star, new locality; Bold line, maximum distribution of partly congruent and sympatric diplopod species. A, M, and S – Alameda, Marin, and Santa Cruz cos., respectively.

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