

A KEY TO THE LOCAL CENTIPEDES

by George S. Hensill

1. Body with fifteen leg-bearing segments; dorsum brown in color; length when mature 25-35 mm. Bothropolys xanti
1. Body with 21 or more leg-bearing segments; length when mature 35 mm. or more 2
2. Body with 21 leg-bearing segments; dorsum yellowish-brown in color; posterior margins of dorsal plates and tips of legs greenish-blue in color; length when mature seldom above 90 mm., rarely 100-120 mm. Scolopendra morsitans
2. Body with more than 21 leg-bearing segments 3
3. Body with 23 leg-bearing segments 4
3. Body with more than 23 leg-bearing segments 5
4. With a prominent spine on inner side of first segment of anal leg; length when mature 45-55 mm.; color brownish to reddish; body stout Otocryptops sexspinus
4. Without a prominent spine on inner side of first segment of anal leg; length when mature 35-45 mm.; color a light reddish brown; body rather slender. Otocryptops gracilis
5. Head darker in color than body; as wide or nearly as wide as widest part of body 6
5. Color of head same as that of body; head narrower than average width of body; usually small and rather inconspicuous 7
6. Body with 45 leg-bearing segments; length of body when mature 50-60 mm.; rarely as long as 90 mm. Medistocephalus limatus
6. Body with 73 leg-bearing segments; length of body when mature 40-45 mm. Geophilus nasutus
7. Body with not more than 75 leg-bearing segments 8
7. Body with 133-141 leg-bearing segments; average length of body when mature 125 mm. Notobius teniopsis
8. Body with 69-75 (generally 71-73) leg-bearing segments; average length of body more than 70 mm. (70-90 mm.) Linotenia laevipes
8. Body with 71-73 leg-bearing segments; length when mature 60-70 mm.; head short and somewhat rounded; claws of prehensile feet long and conspicuous. Taiyana occidentalis