

One new earthworm of *Pithemera* (*Oligochaeta*: *Megascolecidae*)
from Banaue, Philippines

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The early reports of fauna from Banaue rice terraces (Joshi et al., 2000; Anonymous, 1985; Anonymous, 1996) showed that the rice terraces contain 4 species belonging to four genera; *Polypheretima elongata* (Perrier, 1872), *Pontoscolex corethrurus* (Muller, 1856), *Pithemera bicincta* (Perrier, 1875), and *Amyntas corticis* (Baird, 1869). The 4 known species have been spotted in various locations around the world.

Pithemera has an intestinal caecum originating in segment xxii whereas *Amyntas* has an intestinal caecum originating in the segment xxvii. *Pheretima* has male pores within copulatory pouches and nephridia on the spermathecal ducts, but *Pithemera*, *Amyntas*, and *Polypheretima* do not have these features. Also *Pheretima* species generally have some dorsal pigments, but *Pithemera* are usually lightened, and *Polypheretima* are mostly unpigmented.

Materials were collected from 16-18 March 2000, in rice terrace region, soils and litter layers near by the forests in the Banaue, Ifugao Province, Philippines. One new species of *Pithemera* as characterized by Sims and Easton (1972) was found and this new species has five pairs spermathecal pores in 4/5-8/9; distance between male pores 2.3 mm, male pores superficial on center of 0.4 mm round porophore at lateral margin; genital papillae 0.3 mm raised circles, paired lateral xvii, xix or xviii only.

Key Words: Earthworms - *Pithemera* - *Megascolecidae* - *Oligochaeta* - Banaue - Philippines taxonomy.