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HOW TO CITE:
Ponting J. *Titanoniscus*, a replacement name for the South African woodlouse, *Titana* Budde-Lund, 1909 (Isopoda: Oniscidea). *S Afr J Sci*. 2025;121(3/4), Art. #19228. <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2025/19228>

ARTICLE INCLUDES:
 Peer review
 Supplementary material

KEYWORDS:
Isopoda, Oniscidea, Titanidae, *Titana*, *Titanoniscus*, Titanoniscidae

PUBLISHED:
7 March 2025

Titanoniscus, a replacement name for the South African woodlouse, *Titana* Budde-Lund, 1909 (Isopoda: Oniscidea)

Significance:

In any area of scientific study, it is important to be able to identify the objects being discussed. Within zoology, this applies to the identity of the species. This process is controlled by the Code of the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature, which requires each animal to have a unique name (genus and species). When the same name is inadvertently given to a second animal, a new name must be given to the second described animal in order to retain clarity within the scientific literature. This article provides the required replacement name for a South African isopod. Isopods are an order of about 10 000 species of crustaceans, about half of which are terrestrial. These are commonly referred to as woodlice and form the suborder Oniscidea.

Walker (1864)^{1(p.813)} named a genus of lepidopteran from Sarawak, Borneo *Titana* Walker, 1864. He included only a single species, *Titana adellella* Walker, 1864, which is therefore the type species. Meyrick (1925)^{2(p.237)} synonymised *Titana* under *Lecithocera* Herrich-Schäffer, 1853. Subsequently, *Titana* was moved to *Thubana* Walker, 1864, where it remains in the most recent works.³ Despite these synonymies, the name *Titana* Walker, 1864 remains an available lepidopteran name.

Budde-lund (1909)^{4(p.65)} named a genus of ligiid isopoteran from Southwest Africa *Titana* Budde-Lund, 1909. He placed only one species in the genus, *Titana mirabilis* Budde-Lund, 1909, which is therefore the type species. Barnard (1932)^{5(p.208)} transferred this genus to the family Trichoniscidae. Verhoeff (1938)^{6(p.253)} created a new family Titanidae (the name was spelt incorrectly on p.256) for the genus *Titana*. In the latest world catalog of terrestrial isopods (Schmalfuss, 2003)^{7(p.294)}, this genus name is still in use. It is also shown as “accepted” in Boyko et al., 2024⁸.

Titana Budde-Lund, 1909 is a junior homonym of *Titana* Walker, 1864 and a replacement name is required. *Titanoniscus* (Zoobank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:702EE5B9-3DDA-4F5A-9B35-7D61375D30EF) is hereby proposed for *Titana* Budde-Lund, 1909, preoccupied by *Titana* Walker, 1864. The name is derived by adding a suffix derived from the suborder name (-oniscus) to the original genus name. The gender is masculine and the only species is *Titanoniscus mirabilis* **comb. n.**, which is therefore the type species.

When Verhoeff⁶ created the family Titanidae to hold this genus, *Titana* (as the only genus) was automatically the type genus. In accordance with Article 39 of the International Code for Zoological Nomenclature, the replacement name for the type genus of this family makes it necessary to amend the name of the family to Titanoniscidae **nom. n.** (Zoobank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:46C42787-EAA5-4DF8-9EA7-3481166DC733). There are four other genera in this family^{7(p.24,82,134,211)}: *Antidorcasia* Kensley, 1971 (3 species), *Coatonia* Kensley, 1971 (1 species), *Kogmania* Barnard, 1932 (1 species) and *Phylloniscus* Purcell, 1903 (2 species).

These changes mean that the potential confusion arising from the name *Titana* being given to two different animals is resolved, with minimal disruption to nomenclatural stability.

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