

**Synonymy and Generic Reassignment of the Japanese
Earthworm *Metaphire acincta* comb. nov.
(Annelida: Oligochaeta: Megascolecidae)**

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The morphologies of two nominal species of earthworm, *Amyntas acinctus* (Goto and Hatai, 1898) and *Metaphire yezoensis* (Kobayashi, 1938), were studied and compared. We found copulatory pouches behind the male pores of *A. acinctus* and thus conclude that this species should be transferred to the genus *Metaphire*. The intraspecific variability of specimens from Nagano Prefecture in central Japan, which closely agree with the original description of *M. yezoensis*, has been assessed. Our observation strongly suggests that *M. yezoensis* and *Metaphire acincta* comb. nov. are conspecific, and thus the latter is considered to be a senior synonym of the former.

Key Words: earthworm, Oligochaeta, Megascolecidae, *Metaphire yezoensis*, *Metaphire acincta* comb. nov., *Pheretima*, *Amyntas*, Japan.