

REPORT ON THE 2000 ESSEX MEETING : CENTIPEDES

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Centipede Recording Scheme

Some 11 species of chilopod were recorded from a variety of sites in Essex by Steve Gregory, John Lewis, Helen Read, John Harper and Tony Barber over the period 27th - 30th April 2000. Records are from 12 10km National Grid squares from the 100km squares 51 (TQ), 52 (TL) and 62 (TM) mostly within the Watsonian vice-county 19 (North Essex) with a few from vice-county 18 (South Essex) (Table 1). Both forms of *Geophilus carpophagus*, the urban form with 53 - 57 leg pairs and the rural one with 47 - 51 were found. In addition, three sites in West Suffolk (vc 26) were visited by Paul Lee and Ken Hill who included two species (*Geophilus electricus* and *Lithobius curtipes*) not found in the Essex collections.

Essex is seen as one of those eastern counties from which *Lithobius variegatus* is largely if not entirely absent (commented upon by Pocock, 1903) and where the common rural small lithobiid is likely to be *Lithobius crassipes* but, being relatively southern and close to London, urban sites may include relatively unusual species. Pocock had also commented on the absence of *Haplophilus subterraneus* which we now know to be present in some sites.

There has been limited data on the myriapods of the county with the exception of isolated records although Barber (1972) indicated that 15 species had been recorded from the county by that time. This would have been based on those given in Eason (1964) who also included *Scutigera coleoptrata* from a building at Colchester and those in the Victoria County History list (Pocock, 1903) together with a short note relating to 5 species including *Haplophilus subterraneus* and *Cryptops anomalans* from vc19 (Barber, 1969).

Subsequently there has been a note by Steve Hopkin of species from an urban rubbish tip at South Woodford (vc 18) with *Henia vesuviana*, *Cryptops anomalans*, *C.hortensis*, *Haplophilus subterraneus*, *Geophilus insculptus*, *Schendyla nemorensis*, *Lithobius forficatus*, *L. melanops* and *L.microps* (Hopkin, 1986) and Steve Gregory's 1995 account of the myriapods of North Essex which listed 16 species (Gregory, 1995) including both *Cryptops hortensis* and *C.parisi*, *Geophilus electricus*, *Brachyschendyla dentata* and *Lithobius macilentus* amongst 11 new vice-county records. The review by Peter Harvey (Harvey, 2000) gave a county total of 23 species (excluding *Scutigera*) but nevertheless Essex data available to the national recording scheme still remains limited.

The species collected at the field meeting were already recorded at least once from the county but add to our knowledge of the local fauna, confirming, as expected, *Lithobius forficatus* to be almost ubiquitous, *Necrophloeophagus flavus* similarly so (Pocock had reported it from 10 sites) and *Lithobius variegatus* apparently absent throughout. The latter has been found once in the county, in Epping Forest, by Steve Hopkin (Harvey, 2000).

Other species not found during this meeting but recorded in the same paper include the two other species of *Cryptops* (see above), three species of *Strigamia*, *Geophilus insculptus*, *Lithobius macilentus*, *L. calcaratus* and *Lamyctes fulvicornis* (an autumn/winter form

generally). In addition, the fact that *Lithobius curtipes* has been found in Suffolk suggests that it could turn up in Essex, *Henia brevis* could be found in synanthropic sites, *Lithobius borealis* may well be found and possibly even *L. muticus*. The two maritime forms, *Geophilus fucorum* and *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* could be found on the coast and *Lithobius lapidicola*, known from the Kent and Suffolk coasts is another possible species for the county

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all those who submitted records or specimens from the field meeting.

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TABLE 1 RECORDS OF CENTIPEDES FROM THE 2000 ESSEX FIELD MEETING

Vice County	18..... 19..... 26.....																						
	51	52	53	54	61	63	62	01	11	22	52												
100km square	49	40	50	51	52	53	54	61	63	62	01	11	22	64	95								
Location	Ef	El	Gb	Mc	Bw	Lr	Hf	Ae	Am	Rw	Sw	Ha	Ba	Sh	Ls	Hw	Hx	Cp	Wn	Ld	Fe	Bu	
<i>Hapliphilus subterraneus</i>	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
<i>Henia vesuviana</i>	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i> (UF)	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i> (RF)	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
<i>Necrophloeophagus flavus</i>	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
<i>Lithobius curtipes</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Lithobius microps</i>	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

UF and RF refer to the larger urban form and the smaller rural forms of *Geophilus carpophagus*, distinguished by their trunk segment (leg pairs) numbers (53-57 and 47-51 respectively)

Locations :

Essex : Epping Forest (Ef), Epping Forest nr Loughton / Strawberry Hill (El), Gernon Bushes (Gb), Moreton Church (Mc), Bobbingworth (Bw), Leadon Roding Church (Lr), Hatfield Forest (Hf), Audley End Village (Ae), St. Mark's College, Audley End (Am), Rowney Wood (Rw), Saffron Walden (Sw), Hadstock (Ha), Barlow (Ba), Shadwell Wood (Sh), Woodland SE of Leadon Roding (Ls), Hempstead Wood (Hw), Wood nr. Hempstead Wood (Hx), Colne Point NNR (Cp), Walton-on-the-Naze (Wn). **Suffolk :** Ladygate Wood LNR, Haverhill (La), Felshamhall Wood, Bradfield Woods NNR (Fe), Bulls Wood LNR, Cockfield (Bu)