

***HAPLOPHTHALMUS MONTIVAGUS* VERHOEFF 1941 - EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION**

John Harper

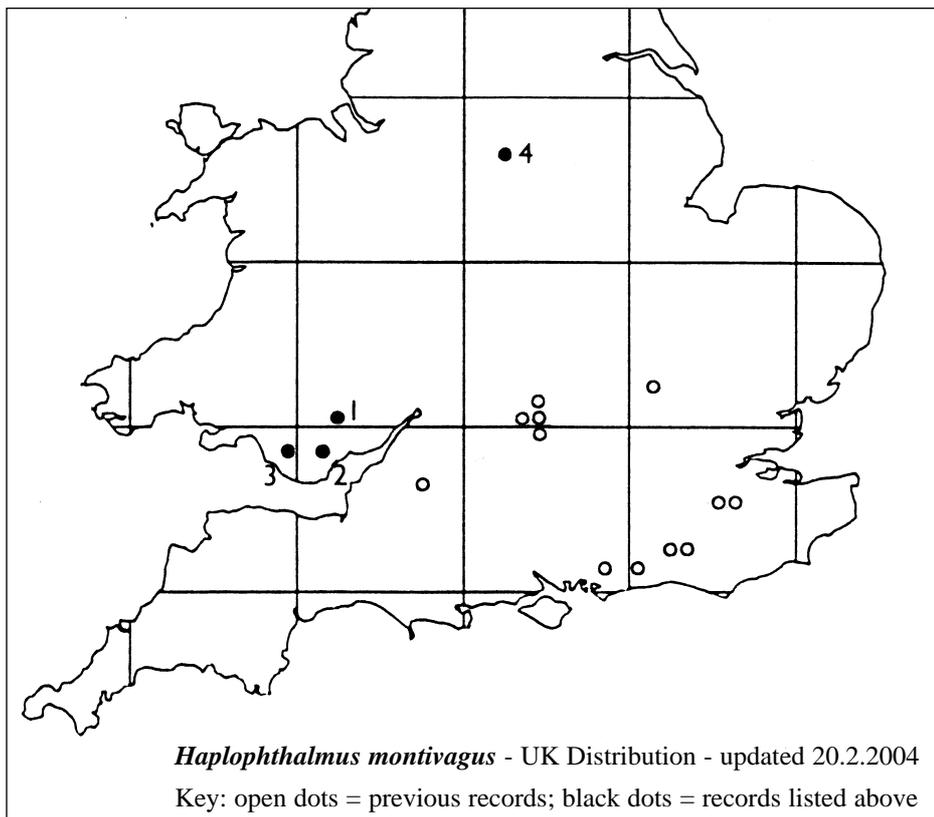
4 Fairhome, Gilwern, Abergavenny, NP7 0BA

From its core area of distribution in central southern England, mostly in ancient woodland on calcareous soils, *Haplophthalmus montivagus* is now being found more widely and with a tendency to occur, at the extremities of its distribution, in synanthropic habitats.

The first of the new sites is described in Harper (2002) and, together with three more sites, is listed below and plotted on the distribution map. Although record no.3 predates no.2, it was identified later by Steve Gregory. Specimens from sites 1, 2 & 4 det John Harper; from site 1 were confirmed by David Bilton. All identified specimens are of course males as female *H. montivagus* and *H. mengei* cannot, as yet, be separated.

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|----|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|------|--------------------|
| 1. | 2.11.2001 | Lasgarn Wood, Abersychan | SO2703 | vc35 | J. Harper leg. |
| 2. | 16.3.2003 | Garth Wood, Pentyrch, Cardiff | ST1182 | vc41 | J. Harper leg. |
| 3. | 24.2.2003 | compost, Pencoed, Bridgend | SS9580 | vc41 | S. Warmingham leg. |
| 4. | 5.4.2002 | garden, Haddon Hall, Bakewell | SK2366 | vc57 | J. Harper leg. |

On collection the Haddon Hall specimens, both males, were suspected to be *H. montivagus* from the rich yellowy “Cornish” cream colour, a feature which showed in a few of the Lasgarn Wood specimens; *H. mengei* does not seem to show this richness of cream.



Both Lasgarn Wood and Garth Wood are ancient beechwoods on valley slopes with a limestone substratum and it may well be that these sites have long-established natural populations of the species; however at these sites, the specimens have been collected in or adjacent to limestone quarries, often used as dumps for garden refuse. The Welsh valleys have long been subject to very extensive mining, industrial, trading and housing development so the species could have been introduced with pit props or other timber from many sources. Simon Warmingham's compost heap at Pencoed must represent the ultimate in synanthropicity for a moisture-loving woodlouse and probably illustrates the method of spread away from the natural core habitats. In the case of Haddon Hall, there has been a centuries-old tradition of plant exchange between the great houses; it would be interesting to delve into the gardeners' areas and around gardens of other grand houses in the UK. Considering this paragraph, I am very conscious that, when collecting, I make a bee-line for these sorts of sites because they can be so productive; another example relates to collecting *Haplophthalmus danicus* in Scotland (Harper 2002b) where all the sites are adjacent to human habitation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to Simon Warmingham of Pencoed, Bridgend for allowing me to include his record; and to Steve Gregory for providing an up-to-date map of the distribution of the species to which I have added the new sites.

REFERENCES

Harper, J. (2002a) *Haplophthalmus montivagus* Verhoeff, 1941 new to Wales. Bull. Br. Myriapod & Isopod Grp. **18**: 50-51

Harper, J. (2002b) *Haplophthalmus danicus* Budde-lund, 1880 in Scotland. Bull. Br. Myriapod & Isopod Grp. **18**: 52-53