

REPORT ON THE 2003 BMIG MEETING IN CHESHIRE

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INTRODUCTION

The group annual field meeting in April 2003 was a special one in celebration of E.H. Eason and J. Gordon Blower. It incorporated a day of lectures at Manchester Museum and was well attended by many colleagues from across Europe. Thus the field component was one day shorter than usual and much of the time at Delamere, guided by Joan Fairhurst, was spent in discussion as well as collecting.

Cheshire is a relatively well studied county, being close to Manchester where J. Gordon Blower was based and there were no major surprises in the finds. The grounds of the Agricultural College at Reaseheath, our base for the meeting, produced a long list of species over days we stayed.

MILLIPEDES

Cylindroiulus vulnerarius was found in the grounds of Reaseheath. This species has still been found from fewer than 25 sites in the UK although it is to be expected from many more. Due to its cryptic habits is probably often overlooked. The coastal location of Parkgate, Neston yielded the two similar *Cylindroiulus* species, *britannicus* and *latestriatus*. Examples of the former were collected from driftwood at the top of a brackish marsh by Paul Lee, this would be expected to be a typical situation for *C. latestriatus* and highlights the importance of collecting and dissecting specimens of these two species.

CENTIPEDES

Only 7 species of centipede are on record from the meeting in Cheshire despite the fact that 9 people contributed records. This must be put down, in part at least, to the fact that there was only a single day's collecting involved and also that the total number of species in the area, compared with, say Buckinghamshire is relatively limited. Nevertheless it is surprising that a few more were not found, most notably *Lithobius crassipes* and *L.melanops*.

The Merseyside Museum's *Recorder* database printout has a similarly restricted list although it does include *L.crassipes* and the exotic *Scutigera coleoptrata*. In the Provisional Atlas, a number more species are shown from the general area, notably *L.melanops*, *L.borealis*, *Lamyctes fulvicornis*, *Geophilus electricus* and *G.flavus*. In addition, there is an urban record of *Lithobius pilicornis* and a record from Delamere Forest of *L.muticus*. In the present list a mere five species are recorded from the latter area.

WOODLICE

The species list is quite short with just 12 species of woodlice where recorded. This is primarily due to lack of recording effort, but could also reflect the acidic nature of the habitats sampled. Two species of note were recorded. The first, *Armadillidium depressum*, was seen by Tony Barber on the Wirral coast. Although predominantly south western (it is common in Tony Barber's Devon garden!), this species is known from the nearby coast of North Wales. The second species is *Armadillidium pulchellum*, found by John Harper just outside Hartington in Derbyshire.

LOCATIONS

1 Lyme Park, SJ96 82, 25.4.03

MILLIPEDES		1	2	3	4	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Taxa																						
<i>Attagulus nitidus</i>																						
<i>Blaniulus gutulatus</i>		X					X					X	X			X			X			X
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>		X															X					X
<i>Brachychaeteuma sp.</i>																						X
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>									X		X											
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>									X		X						X					X
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>		X																X				
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>																		X				
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>		X						X						X								
<i>Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus</i>													X									
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>		X		X				X	X	X				X	X							
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X		X				X				X
<i>Cylindroiulus vulnerarius</i>		X		X																		
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>					X																	X
<i>Julus scandinavius</i>		X		X	X	X	X		X					X				X			X	
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>		X																				X
<i>Melogona gallica</i>																		X				
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>					X																	X
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>																		X				X
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>																		X				X
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>		X		X	X	X	X		X		X											X
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>		X		X	X	X								X	X							X
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>		X		X				X						X								
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>		X		X	X	X	X		X									X				
<i>Stygioglomeris crinata</i>																						X
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	X	X		X			X	X						X	X			X			X	X
Recorder	DW	PL	SG	PL	PR	GBC	JH	PL	PL	ADB	PR	DW	ADB	ADB	SG	ADB	ADB	GBC	JH	HR	PL	JH
		JH						RDK	ADB									JH			SG	
		PR			RDK				PR													
		GBC			SG				RDK													
		SG							SG													
		JA																				

CENTIPEDES	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Taxa																						
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>														x						x		
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>		x	x						x													
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>																						x
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>																						x
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>									x													x
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>		x			x	x																x
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>								x														x
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	x	x		x					x		x				x			x		x	x	x
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	x						x														x	
<i>Lithobius microps</i>	x								x	x	x				x							
<i>Lithobius muticus</i>									x													
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>	x				x																x	
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	x								x				x								x	x
<i>Stigmatogaster subterranea</i>	x											x		x				x	x		x	x
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>			x																			
<i>Strigamia maritima</i>																						
Recorder	JH	PR	MZ	MZ	MZ	MZ	MZ	MZ	JH	PR	SG	ADB	PR	ADB	ADB	ADB	ADB	JH	JH	MZ	MZ	JH
	PR	SG	JL						JL		ADB									JL	SG	PL
	SG																					
	PL																					
	GC																					

WOODLICE	2	3	4	12	13	14	17	19	20	21	22	24	25	27	28
Taxa															
<i>Andoniscus dentiger</i>	x	x								x					
<i>Armadillidium depressum</i>									x						
<i>Armadillidium pulchellum</i>															x
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>						x		x							
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>							x								
<i>Haplophthalmus mendei</i>	x														x
<i>Ligia oceanica</i>						x									
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x			x	x
<i>Porcello scaber</i>	x	x	x	x		x				x	x			x	x
<i>Porcellionides pruinosus</i>	x	x													
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x			x		x	x	x	x
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>															
Recorder	JH	SG	PR	JH	PR	SG	PR	ADB	ADB	SG	ADB	JH	JH	HR	JH
	PR		SG											SG	
	SG														

- 2 Reaseheath, SJ643 542, 24-27.4.03
- 3 Reaseheath Gardens, SJ647 539, 26.4.03
- 4 Delamere Forest SJ54 70, 26.4.03
- 5 Delamere Forest SJ54 71, 26.4.03
- 6 Delamere Forest SJ54 72 26.4.03
- 7 Delamere Forest SJ54 73, 26.4.03
- 8 Delamere Forest SJ54 74, 26.4.03
- 9 Delamere Forest SJ54 75, 26.4.03
- 10 Delamere Forest SJ54 76, 26.4.03
- 11 Delamere Forest, SJ55 70, 26.4.03
- 12 Delamere Forest SJ55 71, 26.4.03
- 13 Parkgate, Neston, SJ27 79, 26.4.03
- 14 Red Rocks, Hoylake, SJ20 88, 26.4.03
- 15 Hoylake, SJ217 897, 26.4.03
- 16 Red Rocks, West Kirby, SJ22 86, 24.4.03
- 17 Dunes nr. Red Rocks, SJ27,26.4.03
- 18 Thurstaston beach SJ 23 83, 26.4.03
- 19 Thurstaston church, SJ247841, 26.4.03
- 20 Wirral Co. Park, Thurstaston, SJ237837, 26.4.03
- 21 Wirral coast, SJ277790, 26.4.03
- 22 Chester, SJ410660,26.4.03
- 23 Northgate Locks, Chester, SJ419668, 26.4.03
- 24 Overton scarp wood, SJ51 77, 26.4.03
- 25 Overton church, SJ520773, 26.4.03
- 26 Warburton Wood, SJ554 763, 26.4.03
- 27 Mow Cop Castle, SJ857573, 27.4.03
- 28 Hartington, SK136604, 27.4.03

RECORDERS

Juan Alberdi (JA)
Tony Barber (ADB)
Gordon Corbet (GBC)
Paul Lee (PL)
Steve Gregory (SG)
John Harper (JH)
Desmond Kime (RDK)
John Lewis (JL)
Helen Read (HR)
Paul Richards (PR)
Derek Whiteley (DW)
Marzio Zapparoli (MZ)