

**REPORT ON THE 2005 BMIG MEETING IN DURHAM – GENERAL REPORT AND WOODLICE**

---

Val Standen<sup>1</sup> & Steve Gregory<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 29 Western Hill, Durham, DH1 4RL. Email: valerie.standen@durham.ac.uk.

<sup>2</sup> Northmoor Trust, Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Nr. Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 4QZ.

Email: steve.gregory@northmoortrust.co.uk.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2005 BMIG field meeting was centred on Durham City in the first three days of April. Twenty three 'delegates', including two new members booked into Collingwood College to sample the delights of student accommodation. All survived to make forays into the surrounding countryside (and the Botanic gardens next door) in the eternal quest for records of centipedes, millipedes and woodlice.

Durham County has a band of Magnesian limestone emerging as a north south ridge to the east of the county with low cliffs bordering beaches and a series of wooded denes leading to the sea. These and a series of abandoned quarries also on the Magnesian lime were well visited. The rest of the county is a complex mix of carboniferous limestone and shales and most effort centred on the Derwent Gorge to the northwest of the County. Another objective was to re-sample some of Bagnall's sites at Gibside – also on the River Derwent.

Search parties were dispatched daily and a lab was made available in evenings for sorting material and identifying specimens brought back from the field. One evening was devoted to a workshop on centipedes. The records will be made available to the Biological Recorders for the County and will help inform the Durham County Biodiversity Action Plans for invertebrates.

## **WOODLICE**

Twelve species of woodlice were present (Table 1) with the usual suspects (*Oniscus*, *Philoscia*, *Porcellio scaber* and *Trichoniscus pusillus*) widely distributed. *Armadillidium vulgare*, which is rather scarce this far north, was mainly found in synanthropic sites and on the coast. The Magnesian lime sites seemed to be more productive than the Carboniferous lime sites. Two elusive species, previously recorded from the coast, were rediscovered. *Armadillidium pulchellum* was found on the grassy beach at Hartlepool Point, whilst *Trichoniscoides albidus* occurred in seepages at the base of the cliffs. The latter species was also frequent along the wooded gullies of Hawthorn Dean, where it occurred with *Haplophthalmus danicus*.

## **MILLIPEDES AND CENTIPEDES**

The millipedes and centipedes found are reported elsewhere in this Bulletin in separate articles (Lee and Barber).

Site number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Date 01/04/2005-04/04/2005																						
<b>WOODLICE</b>																						
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>	x				x	x	x	x		x				x		x						x
<i>Armadillidium pulchellum</i>						x																
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	x				x	x			x										x			x
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>				x			x															
<i>Haplophthalmus mengi s.l.</i>					x	x				x	x											
<i>Ligia oceanica</i>																					x	
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	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	x						x	x
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Trichoniscoides albidus</i>							x															
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>	x				x											x						
No. spp. (Total = 12)	4	4	4	1	8	9	7	5	3	3	3	6	4	5	4	4	3	2	6	1	4	6
<b>Location</b>	<b>Nat Grid Ref Code</b>																					
<i>On Magnesian limestone</i>																						
Crimdon Dunes																						
Bishop Middleham																						
Blackhall Rocks																						
Castle Eden Dene																						
Easington (incl. Church)																						
Hartlepool Point																						
Hawthorn Dene																						
Hawthorn Hive																						
Hesleden Dene																						
Horden Dene (Warren House Gill)																						
Raisby Hill Grassland																						
Trimdon Grange Quarry																						
nr Wingate Farm, road side																						
<i>On Carboniferous lime and shale</i>																						
Gibside Woodlands																						
Derwent Gorge																						
Harehope Quarry																						
Bollilhope Common																						
Hamsterley Forest																						
Botanic Garden hothouse																						
Seaham Harbour																						
Sherburn Church																						
Shincliffe Church																						

Records received from: Tony Barber, Glyn Collis, Steve Gregory, Des Kime, Paul Lee, Eric Philp, Helen Read, Paul Richards, Shona Turnbull – verified by Paul Richards.