

REPORT ON THE 2006 BMIG MEETING IN AYRSHIRE

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The meeting was based at the Scottish Agricultural College, Auchincruive, Ayr, 6-9 April 2006. Eighteen BMIG members attended the meeting, joined by seven local naturalists. A list of sites visited is given in Table 1. Species recorded from each site are listed in Table 2 (millipedes), Table 3 (centipedes) and Table 4 (woodlice).

One of the locals, Paul Baker, who described himself as a complete novice with these animals, provided the only finds of the weekend for the woodlouse *Trichoniscoides saeroeensis* and the millipede *Polyxenus lagurus*, both on the shoreline at Dunure NS2514. The latter record became more interesting when publication of the millipede Atlas (Lee, 2006) revealed an old record in the same 10km square. It turned out to be closer still - A.R. Waterston (1939) had found *P. lagurus* at Dunure in 1939. Dunure is its northernmost site on the west coast.

Table 1: List of sites visited

Site number and name	Grid reference
1 Culzean Country Park	NS2309, NS2209
2 Culzean Country Park	NS2310
3 Knock Laugh	NX1791
4 Auchalton Meadows	NS3303
5 Craighead Quarry	NS2301
6 Ayr Gorge	NS4524, NS4525, NS4625
7 Scottish Agricultural College, Auchincruive	NS3823, NS3923
8 Beach & adjacent area, south of Girvan	NX1895, NX1896
9 Craigs Kelly to Woodland Farm	NX1795, NX1794
10 Dalrymple Church	NS357145
11 Patna Church	NS415106
12 Prestwick/Monkton Dunes	NS3427
13 Fairlie shore	NS2054
14 Lendalfoot (north)	NX1390
15 Lendalfoot (south)	NX1289
16 Pinbain Bridge	NX1391
17 Dunure shore	NS2515
18 Troon Station	NS3230
19 Lower Nethan Gorge	NS8246
20 Glenside, near Hunterston	NS2152
21 Low Craignell	NX5175

The overall highlight of the weekend was finding the millipede *Chordeuma sylvestre* at Culzean Country Park NS2310 and NS2309. This is the first record in Scotland for this species and only the third site in the UK. A record of *Polydesmus coriaceus*, also from Culzean NS2310, is only the second in Scotland. Records of *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* from the Ayr Gorge NS4524 and NS4525 add significantly to the known distribution of this species. Specimens of *Brachychaeteuma* collected from Craighead Quarry NS2301 have been assigned provisionally to *B. bagnalli*. Paul Lee reports that the gonopods of these specimens are more similar to continental forms of *B.*

bagnalli than the typical British form, so they are a welcome addition to material available for understanding variation in this species in Britain.

Table 2: Millipedes (Diplopoda) recorded at various sites

Sites:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	17	19	20	Tot
<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>															X			1
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X		X		11
<i>Craspedosoma rawlinsii</i>						X												1
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	X			X	X					X	X							5
<i>Chordeuma sylvestre</i>	X	X																2
<i>Melogona gallica</i>				X		X												2
<i>Melogona scutellaris</i>				X	X	X	X											4
<i>Brachychaeteuma bagnalli</i>					X													1
<i>Oxidus gracilis</i>							X											1
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									9
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X								8
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>		X																1
<i>Polydesmus inconstans</i>		X						X										2
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>		X		X	X				X	X								5
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>							X											1
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		X								X	8
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	X	X		X			X	X	X	X								7
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>				X	X													2
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>				X	X		X		X	X								5
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>			X			X												2
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>	X	X		X	X		X									X		6
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							11
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>		X		X			X											3
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X								9
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>		X					X		X									3
<i>Cylindroiulus londinensis</i>	X																	1
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		12
<i>Cylindroiulus truncorum</i>	X	X																2
<i>Cylindroiulus vulnerarius</i>	X																	1
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>				X				X	X	X								4
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	X	X			X		X		X			X						6
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	14

The number of centipede species found was disappointingly low with eight geophilomorphs, one species of *Cryptops* and five lithobiomorphs, some of these from only one or two sites. This could be a consequence of weather conditions prior to and at the time of the meeting or to a generally poor chilopod fauna in the area. However, reports from Skye and Wester Ross (Barber, 2004), the Western Isles (Corbet, 2004) and Mull (Scott-Langley, 2002) all produced relatively small numbers of species.

The highlight among woodlice was the discovery of *Porcellio dilatatus* associated with an abandoned greenhouse at SAC, Auchincruive NS3823. Much more mundanely, the good number of records were obtained for *Armadillidium vulgare* near the northern limit of its range. The count of records was inflated a little by revisiting known Ayrshire sites at Troon Station and sites

discovered subsequently at Pinbain Bridge (Stirling, 1995) and Fairlie, but there were five new sites too. To date, the northernmost site for this species in the west is at Clydebank (Futter, 1988), though it has been found as far north as Tayside in the east. It was also pleasing to see records of *Haplophthalmus danicus* and *H. mengii sensu stricto* in West Central Scotland.

Table 3: Centipedes (Chilopoda) recorded at various sites

Sites:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	21	Tot
<i>Stigmatogaster subterranea</i>	X	X							X					3
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	X	X							X					3
<i>Strigamia maritima</i>		X												1
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>						X								1
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>			X				X			X				3
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>				X			X		X	X	X			5
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X			8
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>	X	X		X		X								4
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	X						X							2
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>		X	X	X										3
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	11
<i>Lithobius microps</i>												X		1
<i>Lithobius macilentus</i>				X										1
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	X	X		X		X	X			X				6

Table 4: Woodlice (Isopoda: Oniscidea) recorded at various sites

Sites:	1	2	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	Tot
<i>Ligia oceanica</i>		X				X	X				X			X	X			6
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X						10
<i>Trichoniscoides saeroeensis</i>															X			1
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		13
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									9
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>	X	X																2
<i>Haplophthalmus mengii</i>		X	X	X														3
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		14
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>		X			X	X	X	X		X	X			X		X		9
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	16
<i>Cylisticus convexus</i>					X		X	X	X			X						5
<i>Porcellio dilatatus</i>					X													1
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>	X				X		X	X	X									5

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