

**REPORT ON THE AUTUMN MEETING IN THE OBAN AREA, 2007: ISOPODA****Glyn M. Collis**

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The Oban meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October, was based in self-catering accommodation at Bragleenbeg, at the head of Loch Scammadale, an inland loch about 10km south of Oban. The large majority of sites visited were coastal and included locations on the islands of Lismore, Mull and Seil, though the last named is joined to the mainland by the small but famous “Bridge over the Atlantic”.

Isopod records were contributed by Steve Gregory, Gordon Corbet, Richard Price, Dawn Collis and Glyn Collis from 20 different sites (Table 1) across eleven different 10km squares. Fourteen taxa of woodlice were represented (Table 2), including *Trichoniscus provisorius* which has only recently received general recognition as a full species. Other particularly welcome Trichoniscid records were for *Trichoniscoides saeroeensis*, *Haplophthalmus mengii* seg., *Trichoniscus pygmaeus* and *Androniscus dentiger*, all under-recorded in Scotland.

**Table 1:** List of sites.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Site name and grid reference</b>
<b>1</b>	Lismore, north end, NM8845, NM8946
<b>2</b>	Loch Baile Ghobhain, Lismore, NM8542
<b>3</b>	Port Appin, NM9045
<b>4</b>	Tralee NM8938
<b>5</b>	Benderloch, NM9038
<b>6</b>	Ledaig, NM9037
<b>7</b>	Moss of Achnacree, NM9136
<b>8</b>	Torosay Castle gardens and nearby shore, Isle of Mull, NM7335
<b>9</b>	Dunstaffnage, NM8834
<b>10</b>	Oban Cathedral area, NM8530
<b>11</b>	Oban (South), NM8629
<b>12</b>	Scammadale Farm, Loch Scammadale, NM8820
<b>13</b>	Bragleenbeg House, Loch Scammadale, NM9020
<b>14</b>	Ellenbeich, Seil Island, NM7417
<b>15</b>	An Cala Garden, Seil Island, NM7417
<b>16</b>	Ardmaddy Garden, NM7816
<b>17</b>	Ballachuan & Cuan Ferry, Seil Island, NM7514 & NM7614
<b>18</b>	Fearnach Bay, Loch Melfort, NM8313
<b>19</b>	Airds Bay, Taynuilt, NN0032
<b>20</b>	Crianlarich, NN3825

Among the larger woodlice, *Cylisticus convexus* and *Porcellio spinicornis* were found only at one site each, which was a little surprising. In the case of *P. spinicornis*, this may reflect the difficulty of finding *P. spinicornis* in the north-west other than in buildings; it was found among roofing slates that had been removed from one farm building and stacked ready for re-use in another. Steve Gregory was able to distinguish the subspecies *Oniscus asellus asellus* among material from four sites.

The only asellid found was *Asellus aquaticus*, which is perhaps a little surprising given the presumed association of *A. meridianus* with near-coastal sites. *A. asellus* was recorded from three sites, including island locations on Mull and Lismore. On Mull it was found in a small pond in Torosay Gardens. On the limestone island of Lismore it was found in a kilometer-long natural loch. The third location was a system of small drainage ditches and pools in woodland not far from the shore at Tralee.

**Table 2:** Woodlice records, species by site

N = number of localities

Taxon	Site code																				N
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
<i>Ligia oceanica</i>			x	x	x	x		x		x				x			x	x	x		10
<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>		x		x				x													3
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>			x	x				x		x	x					x					6
<i>Haplophthalmus mengii</i> seg.														x							1
<i>Trichoniscoides saeroeensis</i>														x			x	x			3
<i>Trichoniscus provisorius</i>										x						x					2
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i> agg.		x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		14
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>	x									x	x										3
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	x	x	x	x	x		x		x			x		x				x			10
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	15
<i>Oniscus asellus asellus</i>							x							x		x			x		4
<i>Cylisticus convexus</i>														x							1
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	18
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>												x									1