

CENTIPEDES, WOODLICE AND WATERLICE COLLECTED AT THE BMIG HAWARDEN FIELD MEETING, APRIL 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The 2010 meeting was based at St. Deinol's Library (now the Gladstone Library), Hawarden, North Wales from 8th – 11th April and collections were made from sites in vice-counties 50 (Denbigh) and 51 (Flint). In the past there have been meetings where collections were made in the Bangor/Anglesey area and Cheshire with limited other records from North Wales in recent years. Localities visited included the Erdigg Estate (NT) including parkland, walled garden & greenhouses, Marford Quarry Nature Reserve (NWWT, SSSI), an abandoned sand & gravel quarry with grassland & scrub, Eyarth Rocks (BC,SSSI), limestone pavement, Y Ddol Uchaf Nature Reserve (NWWT, SSSI), disused tufa & marl quarry, Towyn churchyard, Kimmel Dunes, Talacre/Point of Ayr, coastal, Prestatyn, Dyserth (Moel Hiraddug), Cwn churchyard, Coed y Felin Nature Reserve (NWWT), ancient woodland on limestone, Y Graig Nature Reserve (NWWT), a small limestone escarpment, Hawarden area and Penmyndd (Bank Farm).

Table 1 is a list of sites and the centipedes recorded from them. A total of 18 centipedes species and 18 woodlice species and the waterlouse *Asellus aquaticus* were recorded. Initials of collectors/recorders are given for each site: HR (Helen Read), JPR (Paul Richards), ECP (Eric Philp), PN (Peter Nicholson), MD (Mike Davidson), PL (Paul Lee), AL (Angela Lidgett), DS (Duncan Sivell), GC (Glyn Collis), PTH (Paul Harding), JF (Jim Flanagan), Imogen Wilde (IW), TB (Tony Barber) and SG (Steve Gregory).

TABLE 1: List of sites from which records were made

Code	Locality	Details	Grid ref	VC	Date	Collectors
1a	Erdigg	gardens, etc.	SJ 3248	50	09/iv/2010	AL,SG,HR, JPR,ECP,PN, MD,PL,DS, JF,IW, TB
1b	Erdigg	greenhouse	SJ 3248	50	09/iv/2010	SG, IW, TB
2	Marford	sand pit	SJ 3555	50	09/iv/2010	AL,SG,HR, JPR,ECP,PN, MD,PL,DS, JF, IW, TB
3a	Eyarth	farm track	SJ 1254	50	10/iv/2010	TB
3b	Eyarth	reserve	SJ 1254	50	10/iv/2010	ECP,PN,DS,PL,TB,PTH
3c	Coed Cilygroeslywd		SJ 1256	50	10/iv/2010	PL
4	Y Ddol	reserve	SJ 1471	51	10/iv/2010	PN, TB
5	Kimmel Dunes	dunes	SH 9880	50	10/iv/2010	JPR,SG,JF
6	Towyn	churchyard	SH 9779	50	10/iv/2010	JPR,SG,JF
7	Talacre	Point of Ayr	SJ 1284	51	10/iv/2010	JPR,SG,JF, MD
8	Pt of Ayr	saltmarsh	SJ 1284	51	10/iv/2010	MD, DS
9	Prestatyn	Ffith Beach Dunes	SJ 0382	51	10/iv/2010	JPR,SG,JF
10	Dyserth	Moel Hiraddug	SJ 0678	51	10/iv/2010	SG,JF
11	Cwn	churchyard	SJ 0677	51	10/iv/2010	HR,MD,AL
12	Coed y Felin	woodland	SJ 1967	51	10/iv/2010	HR,MD,AL
13	Y Craig	nr Denbigh	SJ 0872	50	10/iv/2010	MD,AL
14a	Hawarden	area	SJ 3165	51	09/iv/2010	JPR,JF,TB
14b	Hawarden	churchyard	SJ 3165	51	10/iv/2010	SG, TB
14c	Hawarden	St Deimols L.	SJ 3165	51	08/iv/2010	JPR, TB
15	Penmyndd	Bank Farm	SJ 3162	51	11/iv/2010	JPR
16	Hope	White Gate Farm	SJ 3195		11/iv/2010	JPR

TABLE 2: Centipedes recorded

Locality:	1a	1b	2	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14a	14b	14c	15
Grid Reference:	SJ 3248	SJ 3248	SJ 3555	SJ 1254	SJ 1254	SJ 1471	SH 9880	SH 9779	SJ 1284	SJ 1284	SJ 0382	SJ 0678	SJ 0677	SJ 1967	SJ 0872	SJ 3165	SJ 3165	SJ 3165	SJ 3162
<i>Stigmatogaster subterranea</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#			#	#	#	#	#	#	
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	#	#	#	#	#				#										
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>			#																
<i>Strigamia maritima</i>										#									
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>	#		#																
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>											#								
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>			#								#		#						
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>						#						#	#						
<i>Geophilus osquidatum</i>	#	#														#			
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>			#						#										
<i>Cryptops anomalans</i>			#																
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#	#		#	#	#	
<i>Lithobius calcaratus</i>															#				
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>			#																
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#			#	#	#	#			#	
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	#	#	#				#	#	#										
<i>Lithobius microps</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#			#	#	#	#	#	#
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>	#	#	#						#					#	#	#	#	#	
Number of species per site	9	5	13	2	5	5	5	5	8	3	4	2	5	5	5	5	6	3	1

CENTIPEDES

Centipede records are summarised in Table 2. The greatest species diversity noted was at Marford where 13 species were recorded in total in a diverse habitat including the generally synanthropic *Cryptops anomalans* and *Geophilus electricus*. The former is generally a more southern/south eastern species although it has been found in Sheffield by Paul Richards. The most commonly recorded species from the meeting were *Stigmatogaster subterranea*, *Cryptops hortensis*, *Lithobius forficatus* (not unexpectedly) and *Lithobius microps*. Erdigg and Hawarden both yielded *Geophilus osquidatum*, a westerly/south westerly species which has recently been recorded by Paul Lee from Shropshire so was not totally unexpected.

The Eyarth limestone pavement, not the easiest location to sample produced a range of species which, with the exception of *Geophilus truncorum*, were ones frequently associated with synanthropic sites (*S. subterranea*, *C. hortensis*, *L. forficatus*, *L. microps*) but not *Lithobius variegatus* which may tell us something about the characteristics of such sites. The normally common *L. variegatus*, surprisingly, was not found in all “rural” sites but this could reflect weather, suitable convenient microsites for sampling and level of collecting activity. Of the remaining species, *Lithobius melanops* was recorded from some of its typical habitats; gardens, churchyards, dunes and coastal; *Schendyla nemorensis*, *Geophilus flavus*, *Geophilus insculptus* and *G. truncorum* were found in several sites whilst collecting at the edge of a saltmarsh at Point of Ayr by Duncan Sivell yielded the littoral *Strigamia maritima*. There were single records of *Strigamia acuminata*, *Geophilus easoni*, *Lithobius crassipes* and *Lithobius calcaratus*.

WOODLICE AND WATERLICE

Of the 18 woodlice species recorded, the four most frequently record species were the usual suspects (Table 3). *Oniscus asellus* was recorded at all sites surveyed (all male specimens examined were *O. asellus* ssp. *asellus*), while *Philoscia muscorum*, *Porcellio scaber* and *Trichoniscus pusillus* agg. also proved common. Of this latter species aggregate, examination of male specimens revealed that *Trichoniscus provisorius* (identified from seven sites) was widespread across the survey area. Other frequently encountered species collected from a variety of synanthropic and semi-natural habitats were *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii* (always associated with ant nests), *Armadillidium vulgare*, and the trichoniscids *Androniscus dentiger* and *Trichoniscus pygmaeus*.

The record for *Armadillidium depressum* at Erdigg is of note. This far north *A. depressum* is very thin on the ground and according to the updated atlas (Gregory, 2009), there are just two other records from North Wales and another known site from the Wirral to the east. It was found by the author (SJG) with difficulty beneath loose stones on walls at Erdigg gardens, in association with *Porcellio spinicornis* (which was more easily and widely found) and the ubiquitous *P. scaber*.

Paul Richards turned up two ‘manure heap’ specialists, first finding *Porcellio dilatatus* under pieces of manure inside stables at Erdigg gardens, and later collecting *Porcellionides pruinosus* from a manure heap at White Gate Farm. *Cylisticus convexus* was found by Duncan Sivell on the coast just above salt-marsh at Ayr Point. *Haplophthalmus danicus* was found in a variety of woodland and ‘garden’ locations at Erdigg, while *H. mengii* sensu stricto was recorded from among litter and beneath dead wood in secondary woodland in Marford Sandpit.

Finally, Eric Philp collected the waterlouse *Asellus aquaticus* at Y Ddol Uchaf nature reserve, which according to the atlas (Gregory, 2009) is the first record for this area; such is the extent of under-recording for the aquatic asellid species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Paul Harding for organising the meeting and St. Deinol’s Library. Also to Butterfly Conservation (BC), National Trust (NT), North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT), RSPB and Woodland Trust for permissions to collect on their sites and to all who contributed records.

REFERENCE

Gregory, S.J. (2009) *Woodlice and Waterlice (Isopoda: Oniscidea & Asellota) in Britain and Ireland*. Centre for Ecology & Hydrology/Field Studies Council.

TABLE 3: Woodlice and Waterlice recorded from each locality (see Table 1 for locality details)

Locality code:	1	2	3b	3c	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14a	14b	14c	15	16	No. sites per sp.
Grid reference:	SJ 3248	SJ 3555	SJ 1254	SJ 1256	SJ 1471	SH 9880	SH 9779	SJ 1284	SJ 1284	SJ 0382	SJ 0678	SJ 0677	SJ 1967	SJ 0872	SJ 3165	SJ 3165	SJ 3162	SJ 3162	SJ 3195	
<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>				#	#															1
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>	#	#			#				#		#	#	#			#				8
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>	#																			1
<i>Haplophthalmus mengii</i> agg.	#	#																		2
<i>Haplophthalmus mengii</i> seg		#																		1
<i>Trichoniscus provisorius</i>	#	#									#			#	#	#	#	#		7
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i> agg.	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#		#	#	16
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>	#	#	#								#			#	#	#	#	#		8
<i>Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii</i>	#	#				#	#	#		#	#	#	#	#		#				11
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	#	#	#	#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#		#		15
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	19
<i>Oniscus asellus</i> ssp <i>asellus</i>	#	#				#	#	#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		12
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	17
<i>Porcellio dilatatus</i>	#																			1
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>	#															#				2
<i>Porcellionides pruinosus</i>																			#	1
<i>Cylisticus convexus</i>									#											1
<i>Armadillidium depressum</i>	#																			1
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	#	#				#	#	#	#	#	#			#						9
Number species per site:	15	12	5	4	5	6	7	7	7	7	10	7	6	9	3	10	4	4	4	