

REPORT OF THE BMIG FIELD MEETING AT CLAONAIG, KINTYRE, SEPTEMBER 2010: CENTIPEDES

A.D. Barber

Rathgar, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0BD.
E-mail: abarber159@btinternet.com

Thanks to the organisation & catering of Dawn and Glyn Collis, a small group of BMIG members spent a week at Coalfin House on the Claonaig Estate, Kintyre from 11th – 18th September 2010 with the aim of recording on the estate and adjacent areas both myriapods and woodlice and other identifiable organisms. Previous records of centipedes from this area were extremely sparse as may be seen from the map in the provisional atlas (Barber & Keay, 1988) where there is a record of *Lithobius variegatus* shown from what appears to be roughly the West Loch Tarbert area. Earlier in 2010 Duncan Sivell had recorded *L. variegatus* and an unidentified geophilomorph from Claonaig Wood (NR 861553; 26/vi/2010).

Much of the Claonaig Estate is grass and other moorland and pasture and conifer plantations but there are areas of coastal woodland including oakwood in the woodland SSSI around NR8655. Collections were also made in Skipness village and in Tarbert, on the coast and other areas off the estate as well as at Brodick Castle on Arran.

A total of 8 geophilomorphs and 6 lithobiomorphs were recorded during the meeting, mostly those that might be expected to be found on the western coastal areas of Scotland, although Steve Gregory's discovery of *Lithobius lucifugus* in Tarbert kirkyard certainly added interest. This appears to be the fourth record of this species from Scotland, having now been found at Cramond, Edinburgh (Gordon Corbet), Torosay, Mull (present author), Castelbay, Barra (Glyn Collis) and here in Kintyre.

Grass moorland yielded few species, only *Geophilus easoni* and *Lithobius variegatus*. Both *Lithobius borealis* and *Geophilus truncorum* are present in the area and might possibly have been expected in such a habitat and certainly sampling birchwood and felled or decayed conifer plantation yielded the former which must be presumed to represent the general "small rural *Lithobius*" of the area (neither *Lithobius crassipes* or *L. microps* were found). *Lithobius melanops* was found a number of times but this is not unexpected from the fact that both synanthropic sites (gardens, village, ruins, etc) and coastal ones were sampled. Not surprisingly, *L. forficatus* was mostly found in synanthropic sites whilst *L. variegatus* turned up in a number of "wild" and "semi-wild" sites. In areas of Britain where *L. variegatus* is absent, *L. forficatus* seems to have what seems have a slightly wider habitat spectrum.

Of the remaining species, *Lamyctes emarginatus* turned up only once, in the Tarbert kirkyard; searching for it amongst river shingle (a common habitat for it) on Whitehouse Burn was completely unsuccessful. *Geophilus flavus* was widespread in coastal sites and around ruins. There were several records of *Schendyla nemorensis*, *Geophilus truncorum*, *G. electricus* and *G. insculptus* from various habitats. *Stigmatogaster subterranea*, typically synanthropic, was found at Saddell Abbey and Brackley Burial Ground by Mike Davidson who also had more success than most of us in finding *Strigamia maritima* which seemed surprisingly elusive around Skipness and Claonaig shores.

A list of sites is shown in Table 1 and of species recorded from these in Table 2.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Glyn Collis and Dawn Collis for organising the meeting, the latter also for the excellent catering arrangements, Gordon Hunter of Gartavaitch, Skipness who made us most welcome and aided us in our work in a variety of ways, the Claonaig Estate who allowed us the use of Coalfin House at a low rental, and all those who collected and recorded species.

REFERENCE

Barber, A.D. & Keay, A.N. (1988) *Provisional Atlas of the Centipedes of the British Isles*. Huntingdon. NERC.

TABLE 1: List of Sites

(TB = Tony Barber, MD = Mike Davidson, SG = Steve Gregory, GH = Gordon Hunter).

Site no.	Location	National Grid Ref.	Collectors	Date
1a	Brodick Castle, Isle of Arran: outdoor sites including gardens, woodland, etc.	NS0137	SG, TB	13/ix/2010
1b	Brodick Castle, Isle of Arran: greenhouse area	NS0137	SG, TB	13/ix/2010
1c	Brodick Castle, Isle of Arran: unheated greenhouse	NS0137	SG, TB	13/ix/2010
2	By West Loch Tarbert, Dunmore / Cnoc Eilid	NR7961 & 7962	SG, TB	14/ix/2010
3a	Tarbert town: waste ground and around harbour	NR8668	SG, TB	14/ix/2010
3b	Tarbert town: kirkyard	NR8668	SG, TB	14/ix/2010
4a	Skipness, woodland	NR8957	TB	11/ix/2010
4b	Skipness, woodland	NR9057	MD	17/ix/2010
5a	Skipness, shore, stones, wood, etc	NR8957	TB	11/ix/2010
5b	Skipness, shore, stones, wood, etc	NR9057	MD	17/ix/2010
6	Skipness Village, stone by community centre	NR8957	TB	11/ix/2010
7a	Skipness Castle	NR9057	MD	17/ix/2010
7b	Skipness: Kilbrannan Chapel	NR9157	MD	17/ix/2010
8	Claonaig estate, Whitehouse Burn. Grass Moorland & Conifers	NR8460	SG, TB	13/ix/2010
9a	Claonaig Shore	NR8856	MD	12/ix/2010
9b	Skipness River	NR8958	MD	12/ix/2010
10	Claonaig, Alt a Chreama, wet heath	NR8858	MD	14/ix/2010
11a.	Claonaig SSSI, Oakwood	NR8555	TB	14/ix/2010
11b	Claonaig SSSI, Oakwood	NR8655	SG,MD,TB	15/ix/2010
11c	Claonaig SSSI, beach shingle	NR8655	MD	15/ix/2010
12a	Claonaig, Gortaneorn, ruin	NR8957	SG, TB	16/ix/2010
12b	Claonaig, Old Chapel	NR8756	TB	15/ix/2010
13	Gartavaitch, old sheep walk	NR8558	GH/TB	15/ix/2010
14a	Claonaig, trackside by pasture, under stones	NR8756	TB	16/ix/2010
14b	Claonaig, Auchanmeanach Farm, under wood in pasture	NR8856	TB	16/ix/2010
14c	Claonaig, felled conifers	NR8957	TB	16/ix/2010
15	Claonaig, neglected conifers above Coalfin, under bark of standing wood	NR8958	TB	16/ix/2010
16a	Skipness, kirkyard	NR8957	SG	16/ix/2010
16b	Near Skipness, Sgier Bhuich, Pier House	NR9259	SG	16/ix/2010
17a	Claonaig, Cnoch Tigh Searmonaiche, pasture, under stones	NR8558	TB	17/ix/2010
17b	Claonaig, birchwood, under logs, bark, stones	NR8656	TB	17/ix/2010
17c	Claonaig, sheepfold	NR8656	TB	17/ix/2010
18	Claonaig Estate	NR8656	SG	17/ix/2010
19a	Saddell Abbey	NR7832	MD	16/ix/2010
19b	Carradale Harbour	NR8138	MD	16/ix/2010
19c	Brackley Burial Ground	NR7941	MD	16/ix/2010
20a	Crarae Gardens	NR9897	SG, TB	18/ix/2010
20a	Crarae Gardens, cool greenhouse	NR9897	TB	18/ix/2010
20a	Crarae Cemetery	NR9897	SG	18/ix/2010
21	Lochgoilhead	NN1901	SG	18/ix/2010

