
FIELD MEETING REPORTS

MILLIPEDES FROM NORTH WALES: A REPORT ON THE BMIG 2010 FIELD MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

Although moderate species lists existed for millipedes in vice-counties Denbigh (VC 50) and Flint (VC 51) prior to the 2010 British Myriapod and Isopod Group (BMIG) meeting, relatively few records had been published in any format. Table 1 summarises information held on the BRC database (as used to produce the millipede atlas (Lee, 2006)) on the earliest record of each species from each of the vice-counties.

The very earliest records, from 1912, are given as *Cylindroiulus latestriatus* and *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* collected by AR Jackson from Saltney Ferry (SJ3665) in VC51. Although the records are listed as having been derived from literature, I have been unable to track down the original reference. No more records are available for either vice-county until 1949 when several more species were collected from VC51 by HM Butler. All of these specimens were identified by Gordon Blower who also added *Polydesmus denticulatus* to the vice-county list in 1952. It was not until 1960 that the first records were made for VC50 when HW Walden collected specimens from Conway Falls (SH810535) that were later determined by CP Fairhurst as *Ophiulus pilosus* and *Polydesmus angustus*.

TABLE 1: The earliest known records of millipede species from Denbigh (VC50) and Flint (VC51)

	Denbigh VC50	Flint VC51
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>		1984
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	1972	
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>		1949
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	1987	
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	1987	1987
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>		1912
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	1961	1949
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	1961	1949
<i>Julus scandinavius</i>	1961	1991
<i>Melogona gallica</i>	1974	1974
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	1961	1984
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	1962	1912
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	1960	1949
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	1960	1949
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>	1962	
<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>	1961	1952
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	1972	1987
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	1967	1949

The number of species known from Denbigh then increased significantly in 1961/2 when Pearson and White (1964) undertook a pitfall survey of surface-active arthropods on moorland on Moel-y-Gamelin (SJ1746). Their collections included ten species of millipede, seven of which were new to Denbigh. CP Fairhurst took the VC50 list to double figures when he collected *Tachypodoiulus niger* from Llanferes (SJ2059) in 1967, added *Proteroiulus fuscus* from Carrog (SJ1143) in 1972 and then EG Hancock recorded *Blaniulus guttulatus* from Llangollen (SJ24) in the same year. In 1974 J Chatfield collected a *Melogona* from Llanrwst, Denbigh (SH8062) and in the same year CRC Paul collected a *Melogona* from Nant Alyn (SJ16) in Flint. The millipedes were determined as *M. gallica* by CP Fairhurst but if the original specimens exist they would need to be checked in the light of the subsequent discovery of *M. voigti* in Britain (Corbet, 1996).

There appear to be no further records from either vice-county until 1984 when the North Wales Naturalists' Trust visited Ddol Uchaf NR (SJ17) in Flint (Morgan, 1985). Mrs MJ Morgan is reported as recording *Allajulus nitidus*, the first time the millipede had been seen in Wales. Other species reported from the same visit included *Ommatoiulus sabulosus*, *Nanogona polydesmoides* and *Glomeris marginata*. In 1987 C Felton collected *Chordeuma proximum* and *Cylindroiulus britannicus* from Bontuchel (SJ0858) in Denbigh and *Cylindroiulus britannicus* and *Proteroiulus fuscus* from Northop (SJ 2369) in Flint. Although the Welsh Peatland Invertebrate Survey (Holmes *et al.*, 1995) included pitfall trapping on Sontley Marsh (SJ339477) in Denbigh during 1988, there were no species added to the vice-county list (only four species of millipede were recorded) so the total number of species recorded from VC50 has remained at 15 since 1987. The most recent addition to the species recorded from Flint is *Julus scandinavicus* reported from Coed-y-Felin (SJ1967) by Mrs MJ Morgan in 1991. This brought to 15 the total number of species recorded from VC51 also.

MILLIPEDES

The 2010 BMIG field weekend, held from 8th to 11th April, was based at St Deiniol's (now Gladstone's) Library, Hawarden. Over the weekend seventeen different locations were visited in the two vice-counties of Denbigh (50) and Flint (51). These sites covered eleven different hectads from which 29 species of millipede were collected. Specimens that appeared to be attributable to a thirtieth species, *Leptoiulus kervillei*, could not be identified with certainty in the absence of a male.

Details of the sites visited are given in Table 2 and of species collected in Table 3. No species of millipede were collected from Talacre. Even the richest natural and semi-natural sites such as the limestone pavement at Eyarth Rocks nature reserve (11 species) and the woodland at Coed y Felin (10 species) appeared species poor in comparison with the synanthropic sites such as Erdigg gardens (20 species) and Marford sand pit (16 species). However, the impact of recorder effort has to be taken into account as all participants in the meeting visited Erdigg and Marford before dispersing to other sites.

Updated lists of species totals for each vice-county are given in table 4. The BMIG visit almost doubled the total number of species known from each vice-county, to 28 in Denbigh and 27 in Flint. In addition, the presence of *Melogona gallica* s.s. in both Denbigh and Flint was confirmed. The most notable find from the meeting would have been *Leptoiulus kervillei* had it been possible to confirm the identification. *L. kervillei* has a southern distribution in Britain and Marford sand pit would be one of its most northerly locations, not just in Britain but in Europe as well where it only occurs along the Atlantic fringe to the Low Countries (Kime, 1999). Another possible northern location has been reported from Dolgoch Quarry, Shropshire recently but again the lack of a male specimen means the record has not been confirmed (JP Richards, pers. comm.). *L. belgicus* is less southern in its distribution with records from recent years in western Scotland. However, there are still few records in northern Wales and the addition of the species to both vice-county lists was notable.

TABLE 2: Details of sites visited

Recorders: Tony Barber (TB), Glyn Collinson (GC), Mike Davidson (MD), Steve Gregory (SG), Paul Harding (PTH), Angela Lidgett (AL), Paul Lee (PL), Peter Nicholson (PN), Helen Read (HR), Paul Richards (JPR), Duncan Sivell (DS).

Site Code	Location	Habitat	Grid reference	VC	Date(s)	Recorder(s)
1	Erdigg		SJ3248	50	09.iv.2010	TB, MD, SG, AL, PL, PN, HR, JPR, DS
2a	Marford	sand pit	SJ3555	50	09.iv.2010	MD, SG, PTH, PL
2b	Marford	sand pit	SJ3556	50	09.iv.2010	TB, AL, PN, JPR
2c	Marford	sand pit	SJ3656	50	09.iv.2010	DS
3a	Eyarth Rocks NR	limestone pavement	SJ1254	50	10.iv.2010	TB, GC, PTH, PL, PN
3b	Coed Cilygroeslywd	woodland	SJ1255	50	10.iv.2010	PTH, PL
4	Y Ddol Uchaf	old quarry	SJ142713	51	10.iv.2010	TB, PN
5	Kimmel Dunes NR	dunes	SH989807	50	10.iv.2010	SG, JPR
6	Towyn	churchyard	SH9779	50	10.iv.2010	SG, JPR
8	Point of Ayr	saltmarsh	SJ1284	51	10.iv.2010	MD, SG, JPR, DS
9	Ffrith beach, Prestatyn	dunes	SJ039826	51	10.iv.2010	SG, JPR
10	Cave Quarry, Dyserth		SJ060788	51	10.iv.2010	SG, JPR
11a	Cwm	churchyard	SJ0677	51	10.iv.2010	MD, AL
11b	Cwm	churchyard	SJ0678	51	10.iv.2010	HR
12a	Coed y Felin, Mold	woodland	SJ1967	51	10.iv.2010	MD, AL
12b	Coed y Felin, Mold	woodland	SJ1968	51	10.iv.2010	HR
13a	Y Graig		SJ0872	50	10.iv.2010	MD, HR
13b	Y Graig		SJ0873	50	10.iv.2010	HR
14	Hawarden		SJ3165	51	08-11.iv.2010	TB, SG, JPR
15	Bank Farm, Penymynydd		SJ310622	51	11.iv.2010	JPR
16	White Gate Farm, Hope		SJ310595		11.iv.2010	JPR

CENTIPEDES: A CORRECTION

Barber and Gregory (2011) reported on the centipedes, woodlice and waterlice collected during the Hawarden meeting. In their report it was stated that I had previously collected *Geophilus osquidatum* from Shropshire. In fact this specimen was both collected (from Preston Montford, Shrewsbury) and determined by Kevin Clements although I did confirm his identification before the record was submitted to the recording scheme.

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Thanks to Tony Barber, Duncan Sivell, Glyn Collis, Mike Davidson, Steve Gregory, Paul Harding, Angela Lidgett, Peter Nicholson, Helen Read, and Paul Richards for submitting their records. Also thanks to Paul Harding for organising the meeting.

TABLE 3: Species recorded from each site (site details are given in TABLE 2)

Location(site code):	1	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4	5	6	8	9	10	11a	11b	12a	12b	13a	13b	14	15	16
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>		#	#		#	#	#					#			#		#	#	#		
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	#	#															#		#		
<i>Brachychaeteuma melanops</i>	#																				
<i>Brachychaeteuma bradeae</i>																			#		
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>		#	#																		
<i>Melogona scutellaris</i>	#	#																			
<i>Melogona gallica</i>					#		#										#				
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	#	#					#			#			#								
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>	#	#											#						#		
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	#	#	#		#				#	#		#	#		#				#		
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>															#						
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	#		#				#					#							#		
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	#	#	#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	#																				
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
<i>Julus scandinavius</i>	#	#			#		#				#	#					#		#		
<i>Leptoiulus belgicus</i>	#	#					#														
<i>Leptoiulus ?kervillei</i>					#																
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	#		#			#	#					#			#				#		#
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>		#		#				#													
<i>Cylindroiulus parisorum</i>	#																				
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	#	#	#		#	#	#			#				#	#	#	#		#		#
<i>Brachyulus pusillus</i>			#																#		
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	#									#						#			#		#
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	#	#	#			#	#			#		#	#		#				#		#
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>	#				#	#	#						#								#
<i>Polydesmus inconstans</i>	#						#						#		#						
<i>Ophiodesmus albananus</i>													#						#		
<i>Macrosterodesmus palicola</i>	#													#					#		#

TABLE 4: Updated list of millipedes recorded from Denbigh and Flint

	Denbigh VC50	Flint VC51
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>		1984
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>		2010
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	1972	2010
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	2010	2010
<i>Brachychaeteuma bradeae</i>		2010
<i>Brachychaeteuma melanops</i>	2010	
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	2010	1949
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>	2010	2010
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>	2010	2010
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	1987	
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	1987	1987
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>	2010	1912
<i>Cylindroiulus parisiorum</i>	2010	
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	1962	1949
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	1962	1949
<i>Julus scandinavus</i>	1962	1991
<i>Leptoiulus belgicus</i>	2010	2010
<i>Leptoiulus ?kervillei</i>	2010	
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	2010	2010
<i>Melogona gallica s.l.</i>	1974	1974
<i>Melogona gallica s.s.</i>	2010	2010
<i>Melogona scutellaris</i>	2010	
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	1962	1984
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	1962	1912
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>	2010	2010
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	1960	1949
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	1960	1949
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>	1962	2010
<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>	1962	1952
<i>Polydesmus inconstans</i>	2010	2010
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	1972	1987
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	1967	1949

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