

ABNORMAL COXAL PORES IN A SPECIMEN OF *STRIGAMIA CRASSIPES* (C.L. KOCH, 1835)Christian Owen¹ & A. D. Barber²¹ 53 Coed-y-moeth RD, Aberbargoed, Mid Glamorgan, CF81 9DR, UK.
E-mail: christian.owen49@yahoo.com² Rathgar, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0BD, UK.
E-mail: abarber159@btinternet.com

One of us (CO) collected a specimen of what clearly appeared to be a 27 mm male *Strigamia crassipes* but with only 47 leg-pairs and an unusual arrangement in the coxal pores of the last legs. The number of leg-bearing segments given for this species in the Linnean Society Synopsis (Barber, 2009) is 49 to 51 in males. Apart from the low number of leg pairs and the unusual coxal pores it appeared to fit the description of *S. crassipes* in all other respects.

The animal was found on an old ash tip (bottle tip) at Aberbargoed, South Wales on 15.xi.2013. The surrounding area is mostly heathland with heather, bilberry and bracken which is gradually returning to woodland (oak, rowan, birch, etc.).



FIGURE 1: *Strigamia crassipes* from Aberbargoed, coxal pores of last legs

Photographs of the specimen was sent to Dr Lucio Bonato of Padova who agreed that it was indeed an example of *S. crassipes* with unusually developed coxal pores. He comments that this species is easily distinguished from other European *Strigamia* species in the adult stage by having a distinct darker longitudinal stripe on the metasternites just where there is a longitudinal shallow groove. The groove is common to other species but the darker stripe only occurs in this one. It also fitted the description of *S. crassipes* in the size and shape of the denticle, number of legs and colour in alcohol. The total range of numbers of leg-bearing segments, in the literature, he notes, is between 45 and 59.

The coxal pores of the last legs seemed at first unusually few (seemingly only 9 / 6) and one pore on the right side is actually moon shaped rather than rounded (Fig.1). The normal number of pairs in an adult is 15-30. According to John Lewis (pers. comm.), this is likely to be an adolescens III stage

and, by comparison with *Strigamia maritima*, at a similar stage, six coxal pores, as seen on the left side would seem to be about normal. The situation on the right hand side is of two additional small pores and the unusual shape of the large one that could possibly be due to coalescence of two pores.

Although this is not a major developmental abnormality it seems worth recording for its unusual appearance.

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REFERENCE

Barber, A.D. (2009) *Centipedes* Linnean Society Synopses of the British Fauna (N.S.) **58**. Shrewsbury, Field Studies Council.