

LITHOBIUS LUCIFUGUS L. KOCH (CHILOPODA, LITHOBIOMORPHA), A CENTIPEDE NEW TO THE BRITISH ISLES FROM SCOTLAND.

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Towards the end of 1989 Gordon Corbet sent specimens of lithobiids which he was unable to determine from the the kirk yard at Cramond, Edinburgh. Dr. E.H. Eason, who subsequently examined these was unable to give a definite answer as no undamaged mature males were present. Subsequent searches did not find suitable specimens until November 1994 when a female and two males were found, identified by Dr. Eason as *Lithobius lucifugus* L. Koch, a species not previously found in Britain and likely to be introduced.

The original specimens were from accumulations of fallen leaves in the burial enclosure and the latest ones were also from leaf litter.

Although the species is well described in the literature (Brölemann, 1930, pp320-321, Matic, 1966, pp178-180) it is probably useful to give a brief description for the benefit of British workers based on these accounts. Drawings are from the Edinburgh material and kindly prepared by R.E. Jones.

DESCRIPTION

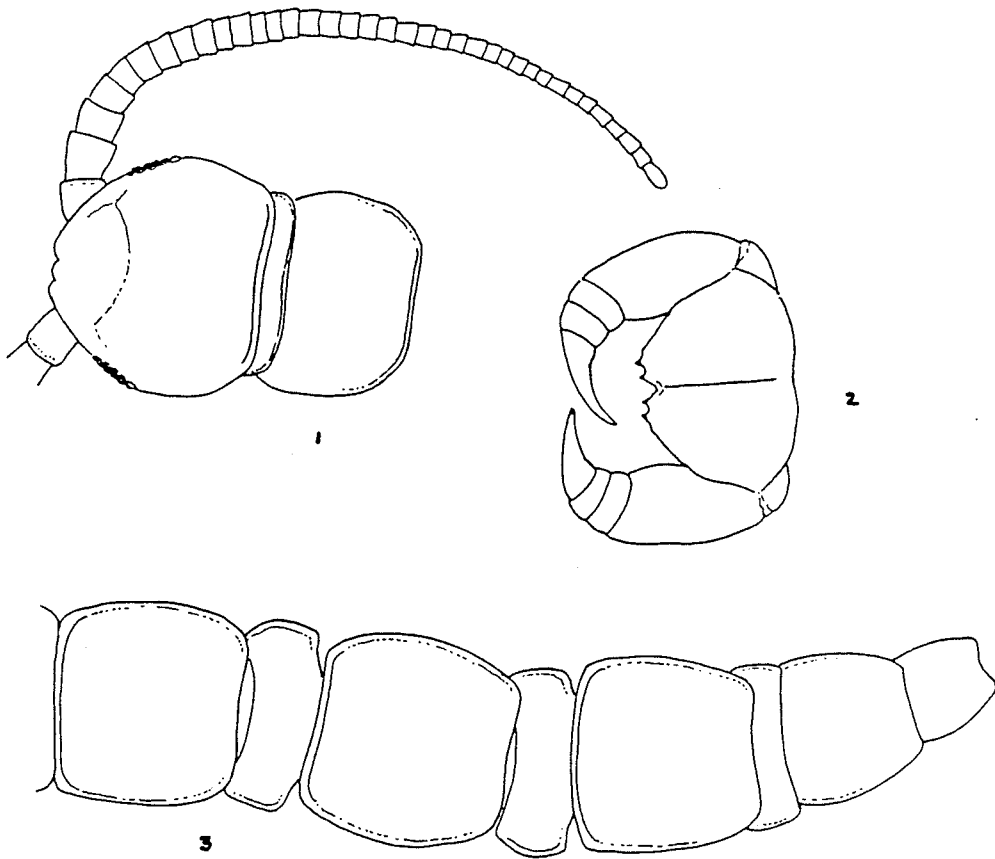
- Size: 12-17 mm long, 1.7-2.2 mm broad.
- Colour: Light brown, reddish brown in centre of head and in a wide dorsomedian stripe. Integument smooth and shiny, without punctuations.
- Antennae: Short, not more than 2/5 length of body, of 33-50 articles.
- Ocelli: Numerous, 13-23 in 4-6 curved rows (1+3, 3, 3, 3 to 1+5, 5, 4, 4, 3, 1 etc.)
- Forcipular coxosternite: 2+2 conical teeth (very variable, may be as much as 4+4; Eason, 1981); a slender spine at each angle.
- Tergites: T9, T11 more or less rounded posterior angles; T13 straight, blunt.
- Coxal Pores: Generally rounded, 4-7 on each coxa, may be additional much smaller pores also (Eason, op. cit.).
- Spinulation: VaP from P7-10 to P15
VaT usually absent P15
- Last legs: Fairly long, short metatarsus, not longer than half the width of the head. All spines long and slender, notably the median ones. Claw simple. In males the last legs are slightly thickened but without any special structures.
- Female genitalia: 2+2 cylindro-conical spurs usually. Apical claws rather large, tridentate.
- Distribution: Known from French Alps, Austria, S. Germany, Switzerland, Rumania, Central Europe. Often described as a species of high

altitudes (Eason, Brölemann, Matic).

Distiguishing features:

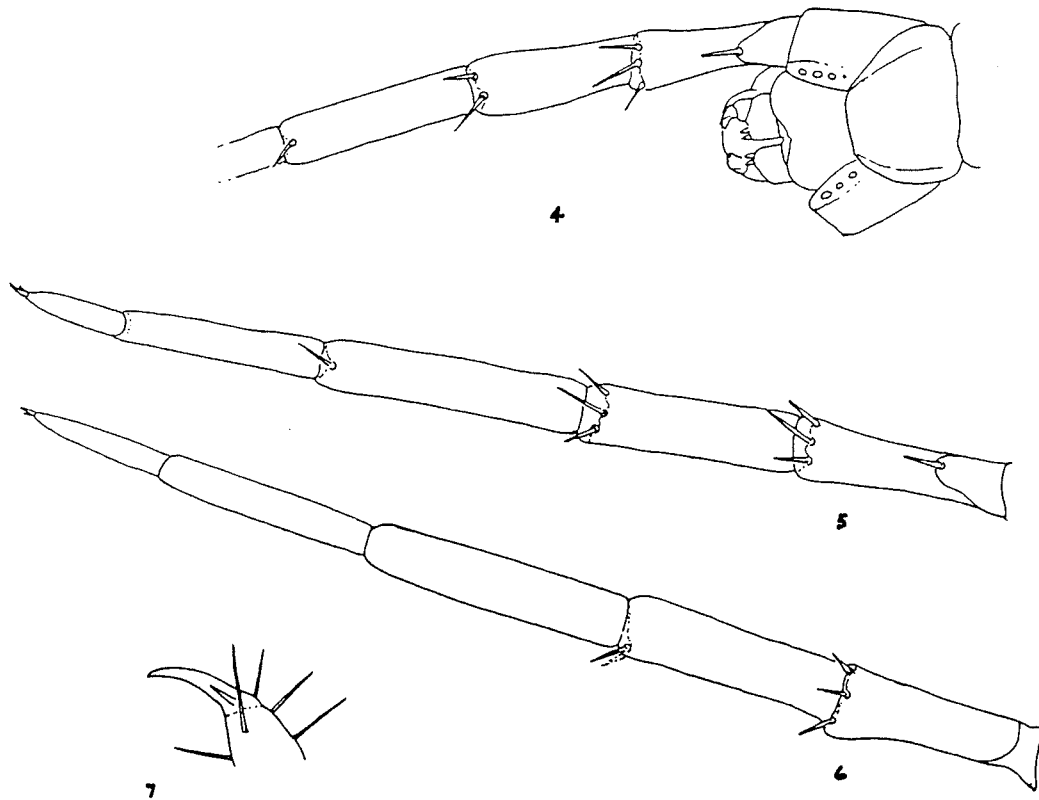
It would key out in Eason (1964) to *Lithobius muticus*. In Eason (1981) the absence of modifications on the legs of the males contrasts it with the small setose swelling on leg 14 of male *L. muticus*. The number of ocelli is much greater than in *L. muticus* whilst the very characteristic head shape of mature males of that species (1.25 times as broad as long) is lacking.

The fact that it has been found in an urban locality is interesting, presumably introduced as a result of human activity. Further collections from other sites in Edinburgh would be interesting although the Lothians are, in general a well studied area, certainly for the larger species.



Lithobius lucifugus L. Koch, Cramond, Edinburgh, 16.11.1994.

1. Head and first tergite, 2. Forcipules, 3. Tergites 8-15



Lithobius lucifugus L. Koch, Cramond, Edinburgh, 16.11.1994.

4. Posterior end, female, 5. 15th leg, male, ventral, 6. 15th leg, male, dorsal, 7. 15th leg, male, claw

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr G. Corbet for collecting the specimens and for continuing to visit the site until an undamaged male was collected. Dr. E.H. Eason for his identification and helpful comments both on the specimens and this report. R.E. Jones for his excellent drawings from Scottish specimens.

REFERENCES

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Matic, Z. (1966): *Fauna Republicii Socialiste Romania, clasa Chilopoda, subclasa Anamorpha*. Academia Republicii Socialiste România, Bucuresti.