

A DESCRIPTION OF *SCHENDYLA PEYERIMHOFFI* BRÖLEMANN AND RIBAUT (1911)

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INTRODUCTION

Schendyla peyerimhoffi has been found around the western coast of Britain from Anglesey to Beachy Head. It may cover a greater range, and may also occur in Ireland. The purpose of this paper is to update Lewis (1961) and Eason (1964) and bring out the differences between it and *Schendyla nemorensis* which looks very similar. Although it appears to be uncommon this is probably due to a failure to collect in the appropriate microsites.

Originally described from Morocco and subsequently from Portugal it was first found in Britain by Lewis (1961) who was looking at the centipedes of the tidal zone. It was later identified from a collection made in the Isles of Scilly by Turk (1946) and it was found to be widespread in Devon and Cornwall. Barber (1987) found it in the estuaries of the Erme, Avon, Dart, Teign and Exe but not in the Yealm or Plym. Jones and Pratley (1987) found it common in the Isles of Scilly and Hopkin found it on Anglesey. Blower found it common around the Gower (Barber & Keay, 1988) and also in Brittany (1987). The known distribution means that it is probably common along much of the Atlantic seaboard provided the correct habitats are searched. *Geophilus pusillifrater* has for instance been found in the Channel Isles on Guernsey (Newsletter No. 20. 1994). *S. peyerimhoffi* has been found around the high tide level, at the same level as *Geophilus fucorum* and *Strigamia maritima*. It also occurs in rock crevices and from under lichen covered stones in the *Pelvetia* zone and has been found particularly in estuaries.

DESCRIPTION

Schendyla peyerimhoffi is a small schendylid centipede superficially like *S. nemorensis* which can be found under the same stones. A look at the last pair of legs with a lens should show that you have a probable *peyerimhoffi* if the last segment of each leg is very short. It needs confirmation under a microscope where the following features will be seen:

Length: up to 21.5mm.

No. of leg bearing segments: 39 - 45. The British specimens are at the higher end of the scale.

Coloration: Colourless to very pale yellow with head darker.

Antennae: almost 3 times the head segment when fully extended. Sparsely covered with setae, those at the distal end very short (Fig 1).

Head capsule: Very slightly longer than broad, convex borders. Lamina basalis present (Fig 1).

Clypeus: 1+1(0) post antennary, 2+2(3) intermediate and 1+1 prelabial setae (Fig 9). At least some *S. nemorensis* have 3+3 intermediate setae.

Labrum: Side-pieces weak, merging into the mid-piece consisting of 14 or fewer teeth, the outer ones having sharp points and presumably arising from the side-pieces (Fig 9).

Mandible: of typical schendylid form with pectinate and dentate lamellae, the dentate forming three blocks of 3, 3, 2 (Figs 4, 5).

Maxillae: First maxilla with 1(0)+1 seta on each telopodite and 1+1 seta on the coxal projections. 2 palps on each telopodites, the ones on the coxae are rather indistinct. Second maxilla has spoon shaped apical claws to the telopodites bearing no spines (Fig 3).

Forcipular segment: Forcipular tergite trapesoidal, about as wide as head at the posterior. Poison claws without chitin lines, coxopleural suture prominent (Fig 2). Poison claws short, claw with a basal node, concavity with crenulations which are large and uneven (Fig 8). *S. nemorensis* has a smooth concavity which occasionally has a few well spaced incisures. The poison claws reach short of the head capsule when closed.

Trunk: Pores on segments 2-11, (Fig 6) being narrower, more elongate and placed further forward on the sternites than in *S. nemorensis*.

Last trunk segment: Metatergite trapesoidal, the edges very slightly convex (Fig 12). Metasternite trapeziform covering 2 coxal pores on each side (Figs 7, 10, 11). Legs much more swollen than the normal walking legs but male and female legs about the same size. Metatarsus of the last leg short (about 3 to 4x smaller than tarsus) (Fig 10, 11). *S. nemorensis* has the metatarsus much longer (about 2 to 2.5x smaller than the tarsus) (Fig 13). There is no apical claw. The coxae of the last legs are more swollen than in *S. nemorensis* and covered with more setae. In *S. nemorensis* there is a distinctly swollen part to the coxa which is differentiated from the rest of the coxa as a bulge (Fig 13).

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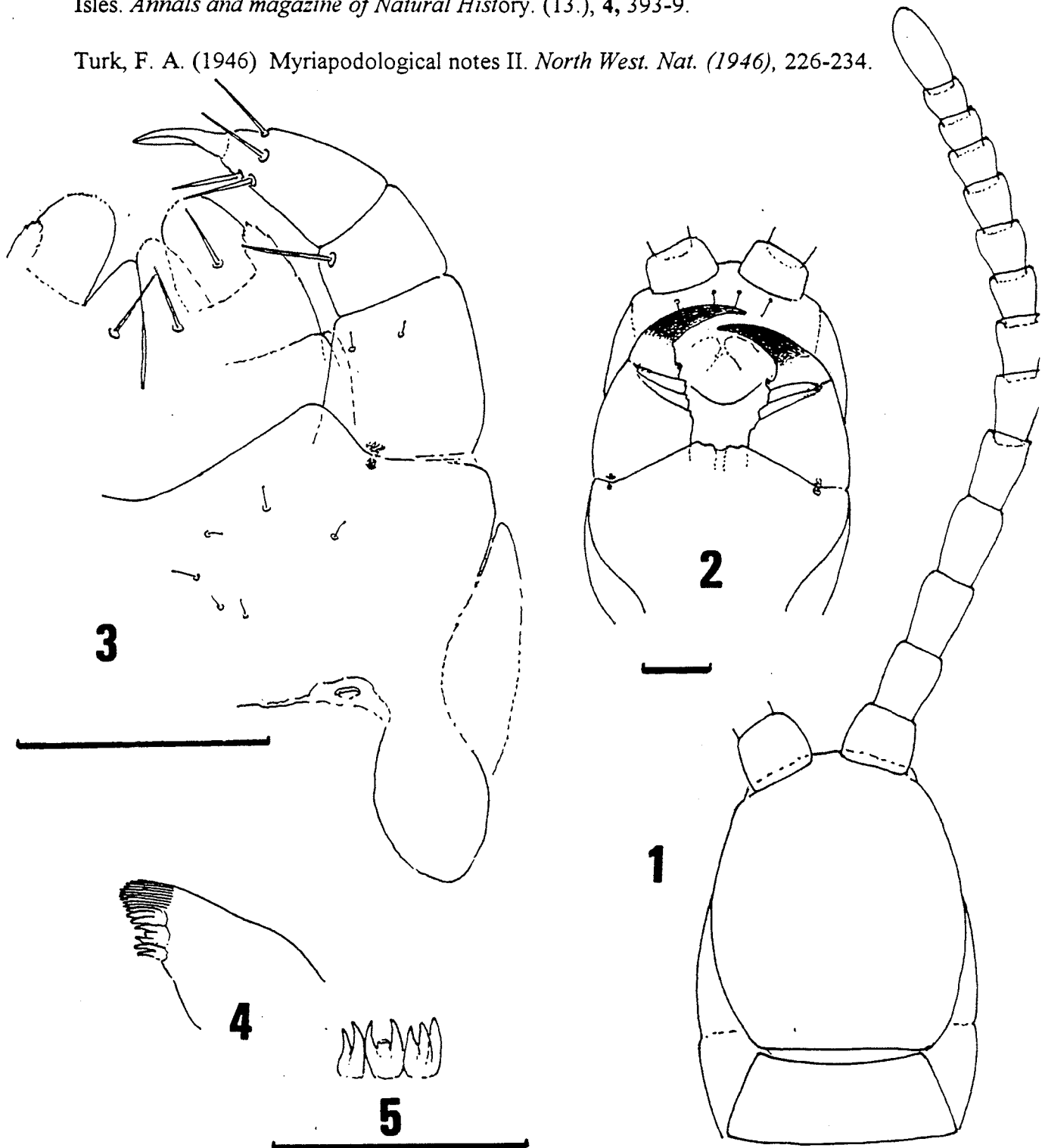
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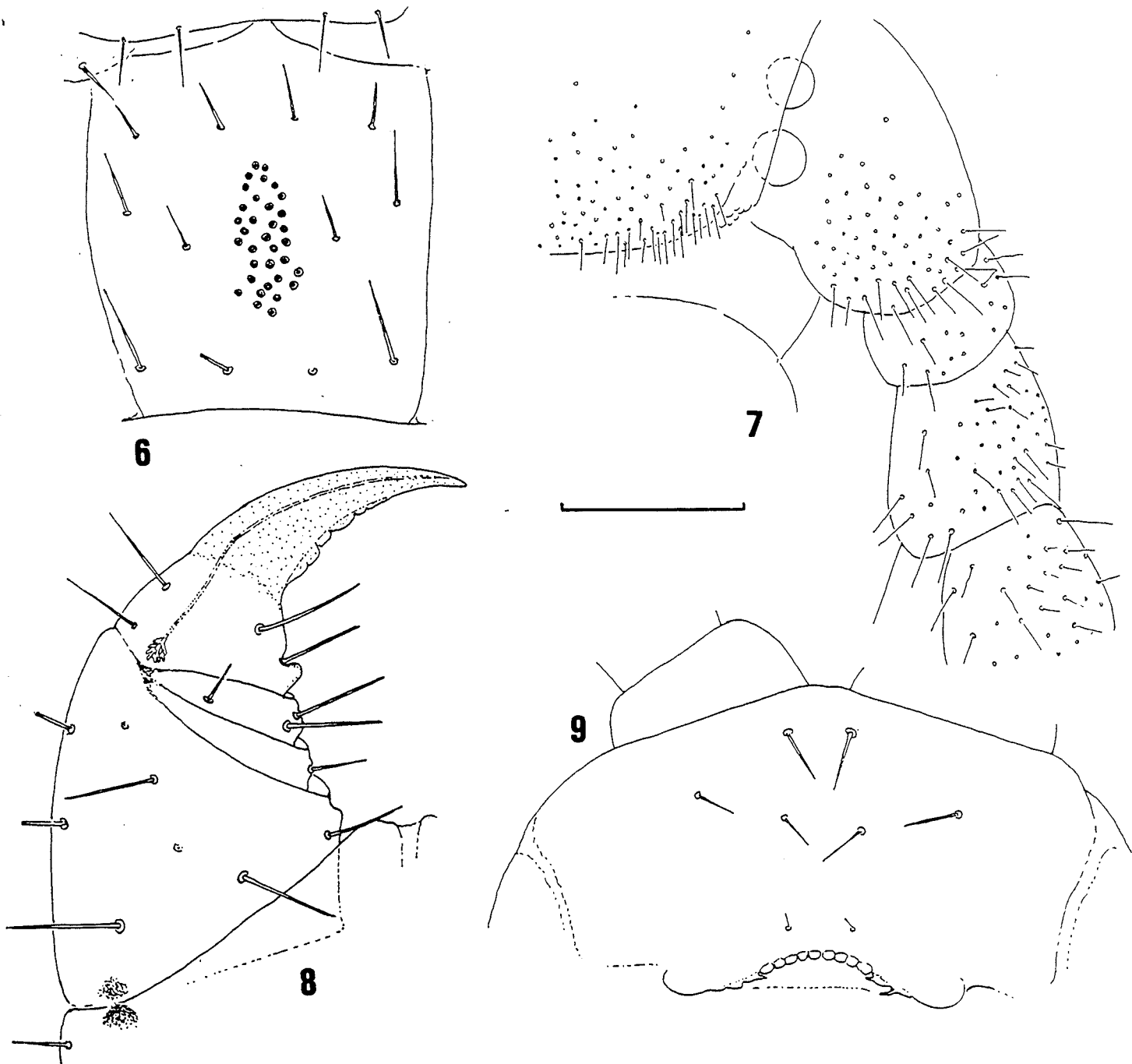
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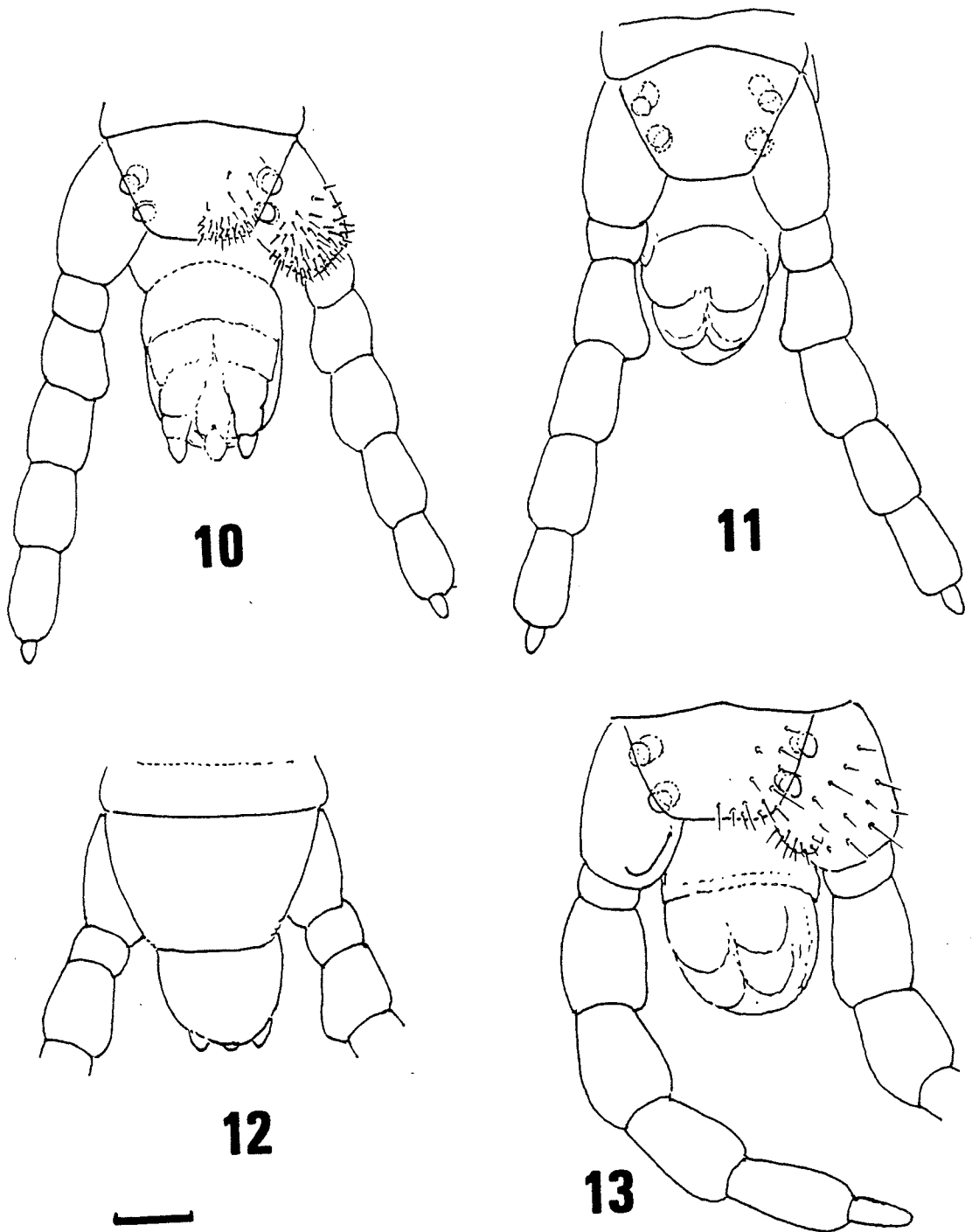
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Figures 1-5. *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* Brölemann and Ribaut (1911) specimens from the Isles of Scilly. 1) Head, antenna and forcipular tergite, dorsal. 2) Head and forcipular segment, ventral. 3) First and second maxillae, ventral, left half. 4) Mandible. 5) Dentate lamellae of mandible. Scale bars = 0.1mm. except for No. 5 which = 0.05mm.



Figures 6-9. *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* Brölemann and Ribaut (1911) specimens from the Isles of Scilly. 6) 6th segment, ventral showing pores. {NB. tail end uppermost} 7) Part of the metatergite, coxa trochanter, prefemur etc. of the last leg m showing sites of setae. 8) Poison claw. 9) Clypeus and labrum. Scale bars = 0.1mm.



Figures 10-12. *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* Brölemann and Ribaut (1911) specimens from the Isles of Scilly. 10) Last leg bearing segment, male ventral. 11) Last leg bearing segment, female ventral. 12) Last segment, male dorsal. Figure 13. *Schendyla nemorensis* (C. L. Koch) Last segment, female ventral. Scale bars = 0.1mm.