

## CENTIPEDES COLLECTED IN WEST CORNWALL AT EASTER 1998

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### INTRODUCTION

At the BMG/BISG Field Meeting in Cornwall on 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 1998 a total of 15 species of centipede were collected from a variety of sites, coastal, woodland, roadside, moorland, gardens, etc. These included *Arenophilus peregrinus*, described elsewhere (Gregory & Jones, 1999) and *Nesoporogaster brevior*. Several species which might have been expected such as *Strigamia maritima*, a very common maritime species, were not apparently found despite extensive searching. The list given here is based on records from W.Arthur, K.Alexander, S.Gregory, R.Jones, J.Lewis, P.Richards and the author. 10 km National Grid squares are given; all are in the 100 km square 10 (SW).

### RESULTS

#### GEOPHILOMORPHA

##### *Haplophilus subterraneus* (Shaw)

This is an extremely common and widespread animal in southwest England and is found in virtually every woodland searched, being the common large geophilomorph of the area.

10km squares: 42,43,53,54,62,63,64,72,73,83

##### *Nesoporogaster brevior* Eason

This was first recorded and described from a Cornish site (Carclew) as *Nesoporogaster souletina brevior* by Eason (1962) but had not been reported since. Specimens were found by R.E.Jones and the author at Devichoys Wood, a CWT nature reserve, in company with *Haplophilus subterraneus* and other species. The location is in within 2km of the original site. Eason (1962) suggested that this animal could well have been introduced to the Carclew estate with exotic plants; whatever its origin, the species is clearly well established in this small area of Cornwall.

10km square: 73

##### *Hydroschendyla submarina* (Grube)

A single male of this species was found amongst rocks at Pendennis Castle whilst searching for *Strigamia maritima*.

10km square: 83

***Schendyla nemorensis* (C.L.Koch)**

This common species was recorded from Tremayne Woods, Gunwalloe and Glendurgan Gardens (NT).

10km squares: 43, 62, 72, 73

***Brachyschendyla dentata* Brolemann & Ribaut**

This was collected by R.E.Jones at Crowan. It is a small and inconspicuous species but is probably very widespread in southern England in suitable sites (including churchyards).

10km square: 63

***Geophilus carpophagus* Leach**

Recorded from three localities; Gunwalloe, Lamorna and Sennen.

10km squares: 32, 42, 62

***Geophilus osquidatum* Brolemann**

An example of this species, widespread in the south-west, was collected at Devoran Quay. Another specimen, eventually identified as *G.osquidatum* was found at Praa Sands.

10km squares: 52, 73

***Brachygeophilus truncorum* (Bergsoë & Meinert)**

This common small woodland and heathland species was collected from twelve sites from a variety of habitats.

10km squares: 43, 52, 53, 54, 63, 64, 72, 73, 83

***Arenophilus peregrinus* Jones**

The first record of this species from mainland England was collected by S.J.Gregory at Lamorna Cove (Gregory & Jones, 1999).

10km square: 42

## **SCOLOPENDROMORPHA**

***Cryptops hortensis* Donovan**

Recorded from a variety of sites, some woodland.

10km records: 42, 53, 62, 63, 64

## **LITHOBIOMORPHA**

***Lithobius variegatus* Leach**

Recorded from woodland, gardens and other sites. A species widespread in non-urban areas in the Southwest.

10km squares: 43, 52, 53, 63, 72, 73

***Lithobius forficatus* (Linné)**

One of the two large brown *Lithobius* species in Cornwall, recorded from 11 sites.

10km squares : 32, 42, 43, 53, 54, 62, 63

***Lithobius melanops* Newport**

This species is typically associated with synanthropic sites and the seashore and is recorded from five sites here.

10km records: 42, 54, 62,

***Lithobius pilicornis* Newport**

A slightly larger and, seemingly, more aggressive species than *L. forficatus* with scattered records from urban and non-urban sites across SW Devon and Cornwall.

Here recorded from Devichoys Wood, Devoran Quay, Pendennis, Glendurgan, Gunwalloe and Chyvarloe.

10km records: 62, 72, 73, 83

***Lithobius microps* Meinert**

A small and common species often associated with human activity.

10km squares : 43, 54, 62, 63, 64, 73

## DISCUSSION

Chilopod records for Cornish sites have been collected over many years, including those of the late F.A. Turk so that the species list for the West Cornwall vice-county is extensive. Keay (1993) listed 28 excluding *Lithobius tenebrosus* whose status required confirmation.

Turk (1944) reviewed his then records from various parts of Cornwall and referred to an earlier paper by Larwood. Turk's paper included records of *Brachyschendyla monoeci* from a greenhouse, *Henia brevis* (as *Chaetechelyne montana oblongocribellata*) and *Clinopodes linearis*. In a later paper (Turk, 1945) he reported *Lithobius tenebrosus* (as *L. nigrifrons*). In Frank Turk's own notebooks, currently in the author's possession, he records also *Lithobius agilis* from a field near Reskadinnick. Of these, *Henia brevis* is now known to be widespread in synanthropic sites and had been recorded from east Cornwall (unpub.) and *Clinopodes linearis*, whilst commonest in synanthropic sites in the Greater London area has been recorded from Plymouth (Lewis, 1962).

The status of the two lithobiids is less clear and unfortunately the specimens are no longer available for examination. *Lithobius tenebrosus* was collected from a site in Wales in 1988 (Keay, 1989) having previously been reported from Northumberland-Durham by Bagnall, a record that has had doubt cast upon it. The fact that it was found as a single but definite record from Wales means that it might be similarly rare in Cornwall if it occurs. In the case of *Lithobius agilis*, there were old records from Ireland, which Eason (1965) thought might be due to specimens of *Lithobius tricuspis*. The latter has been found to be widespread in South Devon and there are single records from both Wales and the Isle of Wight. If the specimen were not, in fact, *L. agilis* might it have been *L. tricuspis*?

TABLE 1

## CHILOPOD SPECIES RECORDED FROM CORNWALL

Species	Turk (1944)	Rundle (1977)	Keay (1983)	Present List	
<i>Haplophilus subterraneus</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Nesoporogaster brevior</i>			x	x	
<i>Hydroschendyla submarina</i>			x	x	
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Schendyla peyerimhoffi</i>			x		
<i>Brachyschendyla monoeci</i>	(x)		(x)		Glasshouse
<i>Brachyschendyla dentata</i>				x	
<i>Henia brevis</i>	x		x		
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>	x		x		
<i>Strigamia maritima</i>	x	x	x		
<i>Clinopodes linearis</i>	x		x		
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>	x		x	x	
<i>Geophilus fucorum</i>			x		
<i>Geophilus osquidatum</i>			x	x	
<i>Geophilus pusillifrater</i>			x		
<i>Necrophloeophagus flavus</i>	x	x	x		
<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Nothogeophilus turki</i>			x		
<i>Arenophilus peregrinus</i>				x	
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Cryptops parisi</i>	x		x		
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Lithobius borealis</i>	x	x	x		
<i>Lithobius agilis</i>	x				Turk notebooks Turk, 1945
<i>Lithobius tenebrosus</i>	x				
<i>Lithobius pilicornis</i>	x	x	x	x	
<i>Lithobius calcaratus</i>		x	x		
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>		x	x		Rundle (1977)
<i>Lithobius microps</i>	x	x	x	x	

Rundle (1977) carried out a survey and reported 15 species from the Lizard area including *Lithobius borealis* (as *L. lapidicola*), *Lithobius calcaratus* and *Lithobius crassipes*. This latter is the only record of the species from either Devon or Cornwall despite the fact that in many parts of Britain it is the common small lithobiid. Unfortunately the specimens were not retained for further examination

One of the most interesting aspects of our knowledge of centipedes from west Cornwall is the number of species so far not recorded. *Henia vesuviana* is widespread along the south coast of England, *Strigamia crassipes*, *Geophilus insculptus*, *Geophilus electricus* and *Necrophloeophagus flavus* are widespread British species. Presumably further work in the area would discover these; indeed the field meeting failed to turn up a variety of types known to occur in the area such as the maritime species *Geophilus fucorum*, *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* and *Strigamia maritima*. Of the lithobiids, neither *Lithobius crassipes*, *Lithobius curtipes* or *Lithobius macilentus* are south western species. Presumably *Lamyctes fulvicornis* may be found in the autumn in suitable sites. The largest of our *Cryptops* species, *Cryptops anomalans*, like *C. parisi* occurs in Plymouth and elsewhere and could well turn up in urban sites in west Cornwall.

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