



NEWSLETTER

Number 27

Autumn 2013

AGM notice

All BMIG members are invited to attend the AGM to be held at 8pm on Friday, 25 April 2014. The venue will be Saughy Rigg Farm, Twice Brewed, Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

The present committee welcomes nominations for officers and ordinary committee members from any BMIG member. Ideally nominations would be communicated to the secretary beforehand but they can also be made from the floor at the AGM.

2014 BMIG AGM and Field Weekend

BMIG will be meeting in Northumberland in Spring 2014, at Haltwhistle, between Hexham and Carlisle. As well as being a good location for exploring under-worked areas of South Northumberland, parts of Cumbria and the east of Dumfriesshire are within easy reach and need more fieldwork. Hard core square-bashers can tackle the open moorlands, but there are plenty of semi-natural woodlands and old limestone quarries to keep most people busy. The Cumbrian or even the Dumfriesshire coast is within easy striking distance and even the Northumberland coast could be explored by the dedicated. The meeting will be held from Thursday 24th April to Sunday 27th April. We will be taking over the eleven rooms at Saughy Rigg Farm B&B (see www.saughyrigg.co.uk for photos, details of the location and excellent facilities including bar serving local ales) and will be fully catered including picnic lunches. Further details are given on the booking form but early booking is necessary, especially for anyone wanting single occupancy, as space is limited.

2013 Field Weekend records

Imogen Wilde tells me that she has received few records from those members attending the 2013 field weekend in Lincolnshire. It is important we gather together records from our meetings to feedback promptly to landowners and to allow accurate reports to be produced for the Bulletin. If you still have records and / or specimens from Lincolnshire please do your best to get the details to Imogen in the near future.

Paul Lee, 33, Lawford Place, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2PT

A second Cornish site for *Eurygeophilus pinguis*

Dave Fenwick of Penzance has sent me a photographic record of the unmistakable *Eurygeophilus pinguis* (= *Chalandea pinguis*) found in February this year in a compound used to store bins. The site was shaded and damp and with lots of woodhoppers (*Arcitallitrus dorrieni*). *E. pinguis* has previously been recorded in Cornwall from Trelassick Gardens by Angela Lidgett and Eric Philp during the 2009 BMIG Ladock meeting. It is widespread in North Devon and elsewhere is known from the Alps, Pyrenees and Picos.

Tony Barber, Rathgar, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0BD

Henia vesuviana taking a bath in Lancashire.

Henia vesuviana is widespread in Southern Europe and recorded over a large area of Southern Britain. It is recorded synanthropically from more northerly parts of the country and from Ireland but there seem to be no records of this species actually being found inside a building and those familiar with the species agree with this view. It is a habit one traditionally associates with *Geophilus carpophagus* ss and sometimes *Stigmatogaster subterranea* (as well as some lithobiids).

Back in April, John Holding of Heysham, Lancashire, sent me a photo of what had been provisionally identified as this species from the bottom of his (dry) bath. The animal was "rather a lively creature" and was subsequently released in the garden. There was little doubt about its identity and this constitutes the most northerly English record of the species. Unbelievably almost, specimens (or was it the same one?) appeared again in the same location on 28th August and 11th September.

The bathroom is on the first floor and the most likely route of entry would seem to be via the drainpipe, negotiating the bend into the bath. The species has not been recorded as being a great climber (unlike *Geophilus carpophagus*) and John commented about it being unable to climb up the sides of the tube he put it in.

Tony Barber, Rathgar, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0BD

An annotated list of the Isopoda & Myriapoda found during fieldwork on Lundy Island in 2012 and 2013

A survey of the Isopods & Myriapods of Lundy Island was first suggested to me by Andrew Cleeve MBE (a committee member of the Lundy Field Society), who knew that I was keen on this group and had done quite a lot of recording since first becoming interested in October 2011. I booked a visit for one week at the end of September / start of October 2012, staying in Old Light Cottage. Lundy veterans Andrew Cleeve MBE, Dr Paul Sterry and Michael Foord were also on the island at the start of the week and helped me find my way around. At the end of that week I not only realised that I had not covered much of the island, I had also caught the "Lundy bug". On arriving home I persuaded my wife that she really would not miss the television that much over Christmas and booked two weeks accommodation on the island starting on 14th December. Over those two weeks I was able to cover more of the island, but there are still many areas I have either not looked or have not looked thoroughly. The fact that I found another species while on a day trip just shows that is more to be found, I will be back again with my wife over Christmas 2013 to see what else I can find.

Amphipoda

Arcitalitrus dorrieni (Hunt 1925)

Under stones near the walled garden.

Isopoda

Ligia oceanica (Linnaeus, 1767)

One found on the beach at Landing bay, others under rocks at the side of Beach road.

Androniscus dentiger Verhoeff, 1930

Fairly common around Beach road and the entrance to the canoe store, also seen in the walled gardens.

Miktoniscus patiencei Vandel, 1946

Several under stones at North Light.

Trichoniscoides saeroeensis Lohmander, 1923

Several on the underside of part embedded granite blocks on the upper storage area of the Battery.

Trichoniscus pusillus agg. – *T. pusillus* Brandt, 1833

In scattered locations throughout the island, from Millcombe valley to North of Gannets' Coombe

Trichoniscus pygmaeus Sars, 1898

Found near the castle and also inside the old hospital.

Halophiloscia couchii (Kinahan, 1858)

Around the landing bay both on the upper parts of the beach in slate shingle and under stones on either side of Beach Road.

Oniscus asellus ssp. *asellus* Linnaeus, 1758

Throughout the island

Philoscia muscorum (Scopoli, 1763)

Found mainly on the east of the island from the castle to the north end

Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii Brandt, 1833

Seen in the south-east of the island from the castle as far north as the quarry.

Porcellio scaber Latreille, 1818

I only found it on the South of the island from the Battery to Quarry beach, with none seen north of halfway wall.

Porcellionides cingendus (Kinahan, 1857)

Found in quarter wall cottages, under a loose stone on top of the wall just south of quarter wall and in Millcombe valley.

Armadillidium depressum Brandt, 1833

In September the walls around Old Light Cottage were covered when I did a torchlight survey at night, however I had trouble finding them during the day. In December they were coming in to the hallway of Big St John's. At the end of April and middle of May on day trips they were common by the side of Beach road.

Armadillidium vulgare (Latreille, 1804)

Found throughout the island.

CHILOPODA

Strigmatogaster subterranea (Shaw, 1789)

Found in the grounds of the old light, near Stoneycroft and in Quarter wall cottages.

Schendyla nemorensis (C.L.Koch, 1837)

Found around the castle, along the west path and at the north end.

Strigamia maritima (Leach, 1817)

One found about 10cms down in slate shingle at the top of landing bay.

Geophilus flavus (De Geer, 1778)

Found under a stone at the base of a wall between the church and castle, inside Quarter wall cottages & under a large rock at the side of the main track north of Gannets' coombe.

Geophilus truncorum Bergsö & Meinert, 1886

I only found this species at the north light.

Cryptops hortensis (Donovan, 1810)

Mainly found in the south of the island (the more human influenced areas) at the landing bay, Old Light Cottage, Quarry beach, Millcombe valley & the Battery.

Lithobius variegatus Leach, 1813

Found throughout the island.

Lithobius forficatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

I found this at Old light cottage, Stoneycroft walled garden & the landing bay.

Lithobius borealis Meinert, 1868

Seen at the north light & under a loose stone on top of a wall just south of quarter wall.

Lithobius microps Meinert, 1868

Found outside the Quarters, at Quarter wall cottages, in Stoneycroft walled garden, also on the path between the church & castle.

DIPLOPODA

Glomeris marginata (Villers, 1789)

I only found this on the east side of the island, from Beach road in the south to the main track past Gannets' coombe in the north.

Nanogona polydesmoides (Leach, 1814)

The only place I saw this species was at Quarter wall cottages.

Brachydesmus superus Latzel, 1884

Seen at the camping field (near the refuse area), the battery and Quarter wall cottages.

Polydesmus angustus Latzel, 1884

The only adults seen were around Quarter wall cottages and the old hospital, however immature (therefore not identifiable to species) *Polydesmus* species were seen at the camping field and on the path to Quarry beach.

Macrosternodesmus palicola Brölemann, 1908

Found inside Quarter wall cottages, the old hospital and by the side of the main track near Quarter wall.

Ophiodesmus albonanus (Latzel, 1895)

A late addition, found under a part embedded rock while checking on the progress of the landhoppers at the side of the road in Millcombe valley, on a day trip in May 2013.

Proteroiulus fuscus (Am Stein, 1857)

Found under a stone in a path at the top of Millcombe valley and on the underside of a piece of dead Rhododendron stem on top of dry bracken on the path down to Quarry beach.

Blaniulus guttulatus (Fabricius, 1798)

Found in the graveyard, the top of Quarry beach, in quarter wall cottages and under a large rock at the side of the main track north of Gannets' coombe.

Cylindroiulus latestriatus (Curtis, 1845)

Seen at the Battery, North Light and under a large rock at the side of the main track north of Gannets' coombe.

Tachypodoiulus niger (Leach, 1814)

I only saw this species in Millcombe valley.

I would like to thank Grant Sherman for his help, knowledge and company on a very wet day while looking around the Battery. Without his knowledge of the site I don't think I would have found *Trichoniscoides saeroeensis* on my own.

Keith Lugg, 42 Mere Oak Park, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berks, RG7 1NR

What is our most isolated centipede record?

Records from offshore islands are always of interest and the potential for human transport of invertebrates seem to be their most likely colonization route. St.Kilda, 66km (41 miles) west of Benbecula in the Western Isles, is probably one of the most isolated places in the British Isles. Hirta, the main island had a local population up until 1930 when it was evacuated. In 1905 James Waterston made a small collection of invertebrates, reported on by William Evans in the *Scottish Naturalist* in 1906. He listed the woodlice *Trichoniscus pusillus*, *Philoscia muscorum* and *Porcellio scaber*, the centipedes *Lithobius forficatus* and *Geophilus carpophagus* (probably *G.easoni*) and the millipede *Iulus britannicus* (likely to be a misidentification for *Cylindroiulus latestriatus*).

In 2006 E.G.Hancock & J.Robinson collected myriapods on the island that were reported by them, with Gordon Corbet, in the *Glasgow Naturalist* in 2008. They recorded *Lithobius forficatus*, *L.borealis*, *L.melanops*, *Lamyctes fulvicornis*, *Geophilus easoni*, *G.truncorum* and *Cylindroiulus latestriatus*.

The island of Boreray is 6 km (4m) NE of Hirta and its 86ha have been uninhabited during historic times although visited by St.Kildans for wool and birds. However Iron Age settlement on the island has recently been discovered. In 1980 a University of Durham group visited the island (unpublished report, 1981, reported in the above). The only myriapod they recorded was *Lithobius forficatus* which must have a claim on being currently the most isolated myriapod record from anywhere in Britain

Tony Barber, Rathgar, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0BD

Possible *Anamastigona pulchella* from Oxford City

This summer I set some pitfall traps at a Trap Ground LNR (SP 502 081), situated in north Oxford, as part of an on-going survey of the invertebrate fauna of the site. Trap Grounds is one of the last remaining un-built spaces along the Oxford Canal, situated between the city centre and the northern suburbs. The rich mosaic of wildlife habitats at the site consists of reed bed, grassland and secondary woodland. The flora of this site includes many introduced 'garden escapes', but the fauna includes several species of county or regional importance, including glowworm *Lampyris noctiluca*. However, many of the records are several decades old.

One of the pitfall traps, set in dry secondary woodland between 4-19th June, included two female specimens of a chordeumatid millipede akin to a very small *Craspedesoma rawlinsii*. Comparison with material of *Anamastigona pulchella* recently collected from Wisley Gardens (reported in BMIG Newsletter 24 www.bmig.org.uk/view/resource/bmig-newsletter) suggests that this is another British occurrence for the introduced Irish Silk Millipede. However, without confirmation from a male specimen the identification remains tentative.

Anamastigona pulchella is native to Italy, but is well known as an introduction in Northern Ireland. Since its discovery at Wisley Gardens it has subsequently been found in Glasgow by Mike Davidson (see below), and additionally has been reported from South Wales. It is probably present, unnoticed, at other ornamental gardens and urban sites throughout Britain.

Steve Gregory, Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Recent Millipede Finds at Glasgow Necropolis

Glasgow Necropolis is a large graveyard near the centre of Glasgow, established in the 1830s around a disused quarry. It has the usual array of ornamental trees and shrubs and extensive areas of mown grass. Of more interest are some of the less manicured steep slopes, the quarry face and an area of ground that has been, until recently, a tip (coup) for general waste, including redundant grave stones. Waste material is likely to have been imported to the site from other Council facilities.

With the help of a small grant from the Glasgow Natural History Society (GNHS), pitfall trapping has been carried out at four areas since autumn 2012. Of particular interest has been the finds at the Coup (NS606654). In November 2012 female specimens of a Chordeumatid were found by hand searching in leaf litter below trees at the perimeter of the coup. Further specimens were found in the pitfall traps set during October/November and the presence of males allowed confirmation that this was the first occurrence of *Anamastigona pulchella* in Scotland. The pitfalls were set in an area of moss, grass and tall herbs that has developed over the top of the tip.

The May/June pitfalls at the Coup and the old quarry area produced male specimens of *Melogona voigti* that were fairly easily identified using the illustrations provided by

Corbet (1996). This appears to be the first record of this species from the West of Scotland.

I am grateful to Richard Weddle of GNHS for ongoing assistance with the pitfall trapping and to GNHS for part funding the survey.

References

Corbet, G.B. (1996): *Melogona voigti* (Verhoeff) from the Lothians: A Millipede New to the British Isles. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group* **12**:

Mike Davidson, 77 Mile-end Avenue Aberdeen AB15 5PS

Further Records of the centipede *Stigmatogaster souletina* (*Haplophilus souletinus*).

Nesoporogaster souletina brevior, as it was then named, was collected and described by Dr Eason from an estate (Carclew) in West Cornwall and this remained the only record of what we now call *Stigmatogaster souletina* from Britain (actually the only one from outside the Pyrenees) for 36 years until it was rediscovered by Dick Jones and myself at Devichoys Wood, a Cornwall Wildlife Trust reserve less than 2km from Carclew during the BMG/BISG meeting in 1998. At the 2009 BMIG meeting, a special visit was made to Devichoys Wood to search for it again, successfully, but on the same day it was also found in the National Trust Garden at Glendurgan.

In June 2012 the students of the University of Exeter / University of Falmouth organized a "Bioblitz" at their Tremough Campus at Penryn near Falmouth and this was one of the handful of centipede species recorded at the time by myself. In June this year, the opportunity to attend another Tremough Bioblitz was taken and a few days were spent in the Falmouth area. Again the species was found at Tremough so the opportunity was taken to collect in Falmouth itself with interesting results.

There are relatively few "good" collecting sites in built up areas like the centre of Falmouth but an obvious one to look for "exotic" species was the Fox-Rosehill Gardens with its exotic plants such as *Trachycarpus* palms. In fact, all five large yellow geophilomorphs found there were *Stigmatogaster subterranea*. The Dell, an area of open space / waste ground with trees near the station, on the other hand, yielded both a male and female of *S.souletina* and no *S.subterranea*. Waste ground off Melvill Road yielded *S.subterranea* but a rather more semi-rural area of mixed woodland near Pendennis Point produced one *S.subterranea* and four *S.souletina*.

The common large woodland geophilomorph of SW England is *S.subterranea* and it is fairly ubiquitous in urban sites as well. *S.souletina* closely resembles it and in the field the two are not easily distinguished unless, using a lens, the characteristic sternal pits of *S.souletina* can be seen (it also has more segments). The two species occurred together at Carclew and Devichoys as well as at Pendennis and it is important to recognize their similarity.

All these records of *S.souletina* are from a relatively small area of West Cornwall around the Falmouth area, all within

less than 10km from one another but, as can be seen, from a diversity of sites. If it is, as was originally suggested, an introduced species, it seems certainly well established but it would be most useful to have further collections in the vicinity and around.



Map showing location of all records of *Stigmatogaster souletina* in Britain

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NEXT NEWSLETTER: Spring 2014

Please send your contributions to reach the editor by
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Supplies of record cards and additional copies of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group Newsletter can be obtained from the Biological Records Centre.

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