

BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

Newsletter - November 1983

Honorary Editor - D T Richardson

MYRIAPOD SURVEY OF BRITAIN

Dr C P Fairhurst

The executive of the British Myriapod Survey of Great Britain met at the Monks Wood Experimental Station of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology from 8th to 11th April 1983. Persons attending were Tony Barber and Andy Keay for the centipede scheme, Douglas Richardson and Colin Fairhurst for the millipede scheme, Margaret Curtis - data handling and Paul Harding for the Biological Records Centre. Apologies for absence were received from Des Kime of the European Scheme.

The objectives were (i) to bring ourselves up to date on recent developments in BRC; (ii) to enable discussions to take place between members concerning problems and perspectives; (iii) to work towards the provisional atlases using gazetteers and maps held at BRC; and (iv) to visit under-recorded areas in Norfolk.

The organisation of the millipede scheme was formally transferred to Douglas Richardson, with Colin Fairhurst retaining the work of analyses.

Material stored at Monks Wood, including large collections from the Hebrides, was examined, and a gazetteer of place names for early Irish records was started. Some 15 species of Myriapod were collected from sites in West Norfolk.

It was resolved, amongst other things, that the Provisional Atlas of the millipedes would be prepared from a total of 10,000 collections covering all 50 km. squares, together with habitat information. For centipedes, when present recording cards are punched and validated, computer sort listings and frequencies would be produced.

The executive were optimistic about the future of the schemes, with annual collection and workshop meetings, as well as improved documentation. The next meeting of the committee would be at Delamere early in 1984.

Gratitude was expressed to the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology for making available facilities and accommodation at Monks Wood and the helpfulness of Paul Harding.

MILLIPEDE SURVEY SCHEME - NATIONAL ORGANISER

D T Richardson

As from 1 January 1984, all completed record cards, specimens for identification and enquiries related to the scheme, except requests for supplies of recording cards, should be addressed to me at:

5 Calton Terrace, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2AY  
Telephone No: Skipton (0756) 5284

It has been agreed that we will continue to identify specimens, and when requested will return identified material post free on a *gentlemen's agreement* that record cards accompany the specimens or are forwarded as soon as possible on receipt of returned specimens.

Whilst I will be carrying out identifications and will endeavour to do this with the minimum of delay, there will be occasions when it will be necessary to refer difficult material (eg Chordeumids) to either J Gordon Blower and/or Dr Colin Fairhurst, an exercise which will add to the time lapse between receipt and return of specimens.

Colin Fairhurst will be concentrating on computerisation and analysis of records and data; like myself, he will have nothing to do unless you deliver the goods.

The next objective is to get together sufficient records to enable a final distribution atlas to be produced. This means at least another 10,000 records and action by us all. Deficiencies in numbers of records and our knowledge should be obvious from the distribution list to be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

I appeal to you all to give me your utmost support. We have an exciting task ahead - the sooner we tackle it, the sooner will we see the fruits of our labours in print.

*Requests for supplies of recording cards should be forwarded to the Biological Records Centre, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 2LS.*

BISG/BMG MEETING, ST MARTIN'S COLLEGE, LANCASTER  
15-17 APRIL, 1983

D T Richardson

Twenty-eight members attended the meeting. How we crammed lectures, slide shows, reports on various topics, held discussions, put up exhibition stands, held an open forum and finally managed to socialise and celebrate Colin Fairhurst's birthday in the bar in the time available to us on the Friday evening must surely remain a mystery. The remainder of the weekend was spent in the field and in the laboratories. Not less than 8 sites were visited and a remarkable number of species were collected - 22 millipedes and 16 centipedes, plus one possible 'hybrid' millipede - more of this later. Composite lists as follows:-

Millipedes

*Archiboreoiulus pallidus*  
*Baniulus guttulatus*  
*Boreoiulus tenuis*  
*Brachychaeteuma bagnalli*  
*Brachychaeteuma bradeae*  
*Brachydesmus superus*  
*Choneiulus palmatus*  
*Cylindroiulus latestriatus*  
*Cylindroiulus punctatus*  
*Geoglomeris jurassica*  
*Glomeris marginata*

*Nemasoma (Isobates) varicorne*  
*Julus scandinavus*  
*Macrosternodesmus palicola*  
*Microchordeuma scutellare*  
*Ommatoiulus sabulosus*  
*Ophiodesmus albonanus*  
*Ophiulus pilosus*  
*Polydesmus angustus*  
*Nanogona (Polymicrodon) polydesmoides*  
*Proteroiulus fuscus*  
*Tachypodoiulus niger*

## Centipedes

<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	<i>Lithobius macilentus</i>
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	<i>Lithobius microps</i>
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>	<i>Lithobius melanops</i>
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>	<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>
<i>Haplophilus subterraneus</i>	<i>Necrophloeophagus longicornis</i>
<i>Lithobius calcaratus</i>	<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>	<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	<i>Strigamia maritima</i>

All in all it was a highly successful meeting - we were all suitably impressed by the friendliness, hospitality, facilities and food offered us by the college, we had glorious weather, excellent hunting and the opportunity to meet, discuss points of common interest and renew acquaintances.

### VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

ENGLAND; WALES; ISLE OF MAN; CHANNEL ISLANDS and SCOTLAND D T Richardson

The wisdom of summarising distribution data using the Watsonian vice-county system may be questioned by some, but at least will satisfy those who have been asking for an up-to-date summary and should provide a baseline from which to develop future work.

The tables have been compiled from the computer printout of 30.6.1983, provided by Colin Fairhurst, of just short of 9,000 individual records contained on submitted recording cards. The lists do not contain information which has been passed on verbally or in letters and note books.

For convenience, names which are given in Blower's 1958 Synopsis and which appear on the current millipede recording card (RA 13, June 1970) are used.

Examination of the data clearly shows where deficiencies exist - believe it or not we still haven't any records from v.c. 78, Peebleshire. Channel Islands (v.c. 113) are given in column marked CI.

C	Vice-county									Species	Total records
	1			2			3				
	1234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234		
.	....	.....	+....	+....	.....	.....	.....	....+		<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	3
+	+++.	+...+	++++	+++.	++++.	.....	....+	++.	++	<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	23
.	.....	+...+	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	2
.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Brachychaeteuma bagnalli</i>	0
.	.....	.....	.....+	.....	.....	.....	....+	.....		<i>Brachychaeteuma bradeae</i>	2
.	+..+	.....+	....+	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Brachychaeteuma melanops</i>	5
+	+++.	++++	++++.	+++.	..+..	++++	++.	++		<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	26
+	+++.	+...+	++++.	+++.	.....	....+	....+	....+		<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>	18
.	+....	.....	.....+	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>	2
+	..+.	.....	.....+	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	4
.	+....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Chordeuma silvestre</i>	1
.	+....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....+	.....		<i>Craspedosoma rawlini</i>	2
.	...+	+...+	++++.	..+..	..+..	....+	....+	+...+		<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	16
.	.....	+....	+....	++++	..+..	....+	....+	+...+		<i>Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus</i>	16
.	+..+	+....	+...+	+++.	..+..	....+	....+	+....		<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>	13
.	.....	.....	.....+	+....	+....	....+	.....	.....		<i>Cylindroiulus londinensis</i>	4
.	+..+	.....	.....	+++.	.....	....+	.....	.....		<i>Cylindroiulus nitidus</i>	5
.	.....	.....+	.....	.....	.....	....+	.....	.....		<i>Cylindroiulus parisiorem</i>	2
+	+++.	++++	++++	++++	+++.	++.	++	++++		<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	33
.	.....	.....	.....	+..+.	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Entothalassinium italicum</i>	2
.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Eumastigonodesmus bonci</i>	0
.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Geoglomeris jurassica</i>	0
.	+++.	++++	++++.	+++.	..+++	++++	++++	++++		<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	30
.	..+.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Isobates littoralis</i>	1
.	+++.	+...+	+++.	+++.	+...+	+...+	....+	....+		<i>Isobates varicornis</i>	20
.	+++.	+...+	..+..	+++.	..+..	....+	....+	....+		<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>	14
.	+++.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Leptoiulus belgicus</i>	3
.	..+.	.....	.....	+..+.	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Leptoiulus kervillei</i>	4
.	..+.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Leptophyllum armatum</i>	1
.	.....	.....	++++	.....	.....	....+	.....	.....		<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	5
.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Metaiulus pratensis</i>	0
.	..+.	.....	+...+	.....	+...+	.....	.....	.....		<i>Microchordeuma gallicum</i>	6
.	..+.	.....	+++.	+++.	.....	.....	.....	....+		<i>Microchordeuma scutellare</i>	9
.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Nopoiulus minutus</i>	0
.	+++.	+...+	+....	+...+	.....	++++	+..+.	+..+.		<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	18
.	..+.	+...+	..+..	..+..	+...+	....+	....+	....+		<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>	9
+	+++.	+...+	+...+	+++.	+...+	+...+	+...+	+...+		<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	21
.	.....	+....	.....	..+..	.....	.....	....+	.....		<i>Oxidus gracilis</i>	3
+	+++.	++++	....+	+++.	+....	+...+	+++.	+++.		<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	27
.	+..+	+....	..+..	+++.	.....	++.	++.	+..+		<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>	15
.	+++.	..+..	..+..	+++.	....+	....+	++.	++.		<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>	17
.	..+.	+++.	+++.	+++.	.....	+...+	+...+	+++.		<i>Polydesmus gallicus</i>	18
.	.....	.....	.....	+...+	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Polydesmus testaceus</i>	3
.	+++.	++++	+++.	+++.	+++.	....+	+...+	+++.		<i>Polymicrodon polydesmoides</i>	31
.	+..+	.....+	+....	+...+	.....	++.	+...+	+...+		<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>	12
.	.....	.....	.....	+...+	.....	.....	.....	.....		<i>Polyzonium germanicum</i>	2
.	+++.	++++	+++.	+++.	+....	+...+	++.	++.		<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	25
+	+++.	++++	+++.	+++.	..+..	++++	+++.	+++.		<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	31
8	0080	54-08	4808	5-82	4808	1-6-2	2800	1-1-1		SPECIES PER VICE-COUNTY	

VICE COUNTY DISTRIBUTION : MILLIPEDES

30th. June 1983

ENGLAND : MID & NORTH : WALES :  
ISLE OF MAN

37 VICE COUNTIES

Vice-county								Species	Total records
3	4	5	6	7					
56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01		
+. . . . .	.....	.....	.....	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	..	Archiboreoiulus pallidus	10
+. . . . .	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	+. . . . .	..	Blaniulus guttulatus	28
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Boreoiulus tenuis	8
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Brachychaeteuma bagnalli	2
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Brachychaeteuma bradeae	4
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Brachchaeteuma melanops	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Brachydesmus superus	28
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Brachyiulus pusillus	13
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Choneiulus palmatus	4
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Chordeuma proximum	3
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Chordeuma silvestre	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Craspedosoma rawlini	6
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus britannicus	12
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus	8
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus latestriatus	20
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus londinensis	2
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus nitidus	5
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus parisorum	3
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Cylindroiulus punctatus	35
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Entothalassinium italicum	1
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Eumastigonodesmus bonci	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Geoglomeris jurassica	3
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Glomeris marginata	35
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Isobates littoralis	2
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Isobates varicornis	17
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Julus scandinavicus	31
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Leptoiulus belgicus	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Leptoiulus kervillei	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Leptophyllum armatum	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Macrosternodesmus palicola	7
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Metaiulus pratensis	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Microchordeuma gallicum	7
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Microchordeuma scutellare	10
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Nopoiulus minutus	4
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Ommatoiulus sabulosus	33
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Ophiodesmus albonanus	7
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Ophyiulus pilosus	33
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Oxidus gracilis	5
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polydesmus angustus	31
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polydesmus coriaceus	18
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polydesmus denticulatus	23
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polydesmus gallicus	12
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polydesmus testaceus	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polymicrodon polydesmoides	31
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polyxenus lagurus	11
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Polyzonium germanicum	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Proteroiulus fuscus	34
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Tachypodoiulus niger	36
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<b>SPECIES PER VICE-COUNTY</b>	

SCOTLAND

41 VICE COUNTIES

Vice-county											Species	Total records
7		8			9			10				
234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	012		
...	.....	+.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Archiboreoiulus pallidus	2
..+	..+..	.....+	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Blaniulus guttulatus	5
...	+.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Boreoiulus tenuis	1
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Brachychaeteuma bagnalli	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Brachychaeteuma bradeae	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Brachychaeteuma melanops	0
..++	.....	+.....	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Brachydesmus superus	10
...	.....	.....+	.....	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Brachyiulus pusillus	4
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Choneiulus palmatus	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Chordeuma proximum	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Chordeuma silvestre	0
..++	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Craspedosoma rawlini	4
..+++	.....	.....+	.....	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Cylindroiulus britannicus	8
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus	
..+++	+.....	..+..	+.....	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	..+++	Cylindroiulus latestriatus	27
..+.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Cylindroiulus londinensis	1
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Cylindroiulus nitidus	2
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Cylindroiulus parisorum	0
..+++	..+++	..+..+	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	..+	Cylindroiulus punctatus	33
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Entothalassinium italicum	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Eumastigonodesmus bonci	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Geoglomeris jurassica	0
..+++	..+++	..+..	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Glomeris marginata	11
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Isobates littoralis	0
..++	.....	.....	.....	..+..	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+++	Isobates varicornis	8
..+++	..+..	..+..+	+++++	+++++	..+..+	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Julus scandinavicus	25
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Leptoiulus belgicus	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Leptoiulus kervillei	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Leptophyllum armatum	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Macrosternodesmus palicola	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Metaiulus pratensis	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Microchordeuma gallicum	-
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Microchordeuma scutellare	-
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Nopoiulus minutus	0
..+.	..+..	..+..	..+..+	+++++	+++++	+++++	..+..+	+++++	+++++	...	Ommatoiulus sabulosus	28
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Ophiodesmus albonanus	0
..+++	..+..	..+..	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	.....+	.....+	..+	Ophiulus pilosus	23
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Oxidus gracilis	0
..+++	..+..	..+..+	..+..+	+++++	+++++	+++++	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	..+	Polydesmus angustus	29
..+.	.....	.....	.....	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Polydesmus coriaceus	10
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Polydesmus denticulatus	1
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Polydesmus gallicus	0
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Polydesmus testaceus	0
..+++	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Polymicrodon polydesmoides	23
..+.	.....	.....	.....	..+..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Polyxenus lagurus	2
..+++	..+..	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..+	Proteroiulus fuscus	25
..+++	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	..+..+	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	Tachypodoiulus niger	26
..+.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	SPECIES PER VICE-COUNTY	

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: CENTIPEDES  
ENGLAND (NORTH), WALES and ISLE OF MAN

A D Barber

For the data herewith there is an average of rather less than 14 species per vice-county. Low numbers of species in eastern counties may, in part, be a reflection of the lack of suitable habitats and of a generally reduced number of species.

Poorly recorded areas include much of Wales [except Caernarvon (Ted Eason) and Radnor (BMG, 1971)] with Denbigh (4 spp) and Anglesey (5 spp) very poor, Shropshire (7 spp) and the Isle of Man (7 spp). However, many of the records from other areas are fairly old ones except in the case of Yorkshire, East Midlands, South Wales and Northumberland.

England (South) will be reported in the next Newsletter.

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: CENTIPEDES

15.8.1983

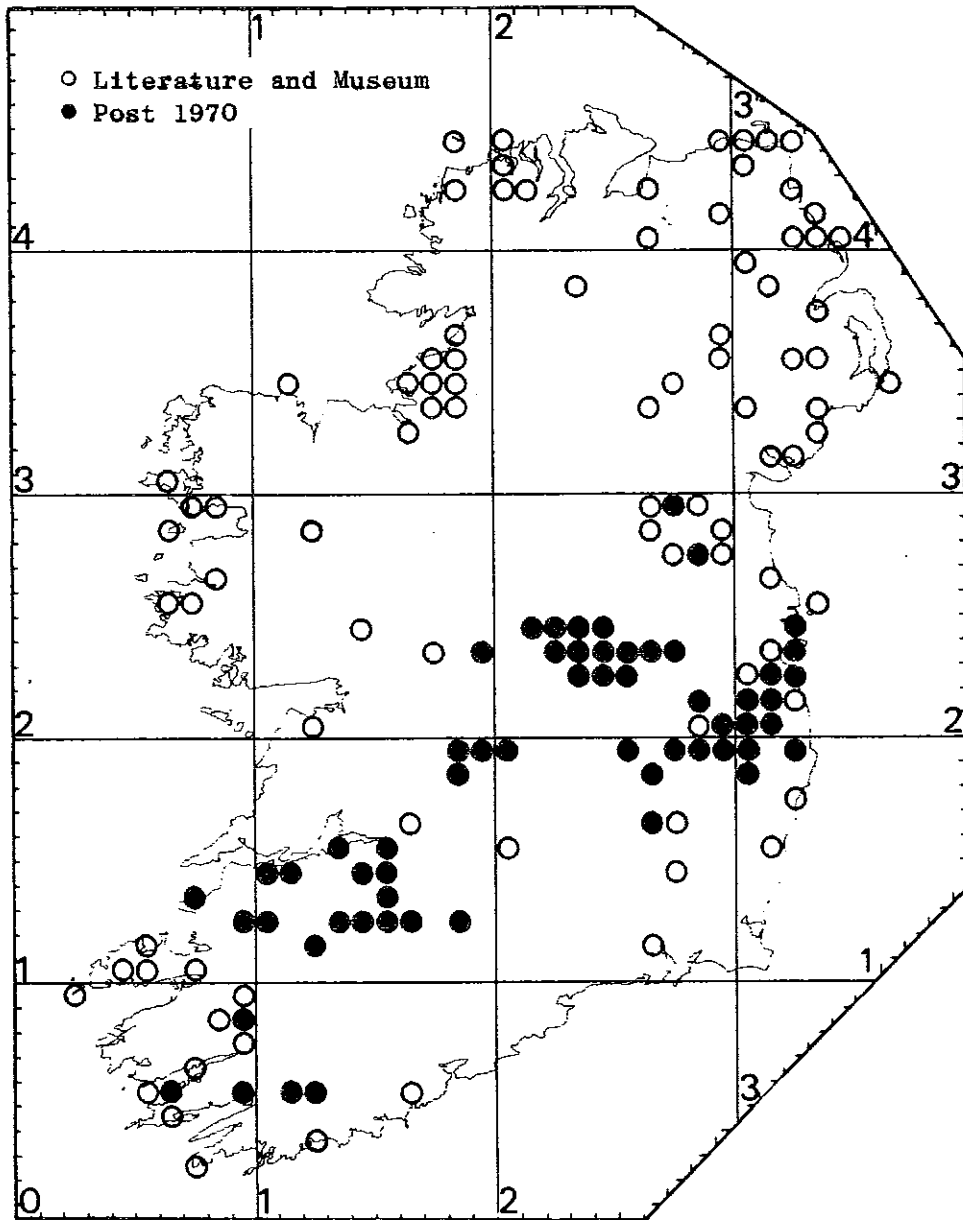
ENGLAND (NORTH), WALES, ISLE OF MAN (32 vice-counties)

4		5		6		7		Species	Total records
01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01			
*****	*****	....*	*****	*****	*****	*****	*	<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	27
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<i>Brachyschendyla dentata</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<i>Brachyschendyla monoeci</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<i>Chaetechelyne montana</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<i>Chaetechelyne vesuviana</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<i>Chalandea pinguis</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....*	*....	**..	..	..	<i>Clinopodes linearis</i>	4
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	<i>Cryptops anomalans</i>	0
**..*	*..**	*..*	*****	*..***	**..*	..	..	<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	20
*..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....*	..	..	<i>Cryptops parisi</i>	2
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....*	..	..	<i>Dicellogophilus carniolensis</i>	1
*****	*****	**..*	*****	*..***	*****	*	*	<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>	28
...*	...*	...*	****.	*..***	...*	..	..	<i>Geophilus electricus</i>	13
.....	.....*	.....	.....	.....	.....	*	*	<i>Geophilus fucorum seurati</i>	2
...*	*****	...*	*****	*****	*****	*	*	<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>	23
*..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Geophilus osquidatum</i>	1
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Geophilus pusillifrater</i>	0
*****	*..**	...**	*****	*****	***.*	*	*	<i>Haplophilus subterraneus</i>	24
.....	.....	.....	.....	..*..	.....	..	..	<i>Hydroschendyla submarina</i>	1
*..	...**	*..**	***.*	*..**	*****	*	*	<i>Lamyctes fulvicornis</i>	19
...*	*..*	.....	*..	**..**	*..**	..	..	<i>Lithobius macilentus</i>	12
*..	.....	*****	*..***	*..***	*****	*	*	<i>Lithobius calcaratus</i>	18
...**	*..***	**..**	*****	*****	*****	*	*	<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>	27
...*	...***	.....	*..	...*	*..	..	..	<i>Lithobius curtipes</i>	9
*****	***.*	*..**	*****	*****	*****	*	*	<i>Lithobius microps</i>	28
.....	*..	.....	.....	.....	..*..	..	..	<i>Lithobius erythrocephalus</i>	2
****.	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**	**	<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	31
*****	*..***	**..	...**	*..*	*..**	**	**	<i>Lithobius borealis</i>	20
...*	*..	*..***	*****	*****	*****	*	*	<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	23
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Lithobius muticus</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	**..	..	..	<i>Lithobius piceus britannicus</i>	2
*..	*..	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Lithobius pilicornis</i>	2
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Lithobius tricuspis</i>	0
*****	*****	****.	*****	*..**	*****	**	**	<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>	29
*****	*****	*..*	*****	*****	*****	*	*	<i>Necrophloeophagus longicornis</i>	27
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Nesoporogaster souletina brevior</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Pachymerium ferrugineum</i>	0
...**	**..**	*..*	**..**	*..*	*..*	..	..	<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	16
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Schendyla peyerimhoffi</i>	0
.....	.....	.....	.....*	.....	.....	..	..	<i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>	1
...*	*..***	*..**	*****	*..***	**..*	..	..	<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>	21
...*	.....	...*	.....	...*	*..	..	..	<i>Strigamia crassipes</i>	4
.....	*..**	*..*	...*	*..	*..**	*	*	<i>Strigamia maritima</i>	9



The accompanying map shows the total records of centipedes from Ireland with old records (published papers up to 1920, lists of material in the National Museum of Ireland) shown by open circles. Records from before 1880 and a few untraceable site locations are excluded.

Modern (ie post-1970) records made by a small number of recorders (D Doogue, C Mothersill, M J Bishop, A J Rundle) are shown by solid dots. Clearly there is a great need for further collecting from all parts of Ireland and all records will be very welcome.



Following Eason's paper on the distribution of *L. variegatus* in northern Portugal and southern Spain (British Myriapod Group Newsletter - 1983), I obtained a small collection of centipedes from Brittany, collected by Mr S Peters. The collection was made from the litter of a hedgerow surrounding a camp site approximately 4 miles from Brest.

The hedgerow consisted of mixed trees and shrubs with an understorey of grass and herbs. The collection was made on 22.4.1983 and yielded three *Lithobiomorpha* which were examined, by me, two days later. Two of the specimens were *L. microps* and the third a female *L. variegatus*.

The *L. variegatus* is very pale in colour (straw yellow) in alcohol, and when examined displayed none of the variegated markings associated with the species, although Mr Peters assures me that, when collected, there were the typical variegations on at least the terminal pair of legs. The specimen is 22 mm long; with 6, 5, 5, 5 coxal pores and has 7 + 7 forcipular teeth. The tergal projections on T.7, T.9 and T.11 are well developed. In the rest of the diagnostic features this specimen agrees with the descriptions of the British form in every way with the exception of the light colouring. Finding *L. variegatus* from Brittany is not as unlikely as was thought, as A D Barber and D Kime have recorded this species from Jersey and Herm in the Channel Isles and I have recorded *L. variegatus* from coastal woodland in Guernsey.

It now seems likely that the distribution of *L. variegatus* depends to a great extent on climate, as suggested in Eason's paper. The distribution of this species in western Europe now requires investigation to see if it does in fact cover the coastal area from Brittany, south to northern Spain.

ARE THERE CENTIPEDES AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN?      A D Barber & A N Keay

Looking in gardens for centipede (and millipede) species has been going on since at least George Newport's 1844 description of *Lithobius melanops* from a garden at Sandwich. We have never checked to see if it still occurs under moist stones in gardens in that town; there seems no reason why it should not. Gardens, parks, waste ground and other sites heavily influenced by man have produced a regular supply of records ever since, the synanthropic habitat providing a "protected" environment in which species may occur outside their normal distribution.

Obvious examples of common species found in such sites are *Lithobius forficatus* (and in many other places as well), *Lithobius microps*, *Cryptops hortensis* and *Haplophilus subterraneus*. In addition, *L. pilicornis* has been found in Kent, Sussex, Oxfordshire and the Isle of Wight whilst its normal range seems to be parts of S.W. England and S. Wales; *Cryptops parisi* (R S Bagnall found it in Dulwich Wood Park) with scattered records including ADB's garden; *C. anomalans* first recorded from Kew has been found in urban/suburban sites mostly in S.E. England. The last species is well established in two gardens known to us, one in Maidstone and the other in Bristol, and specimens are seen in these gardens every year.

Geophilomorpha seem to be regularly found in gardens or are dug up in soil: *Brachyschendyla dentata* (small) from urban sites in Surrey; *C. montana* from in or near gardens in various parts of the South; *C. vesuviana*, well

established in South Devon and the Isle of Wight but with other scattered synanthropic records elsewhere; *Clinopodes linearis* from various people's gardens (dozens of 'em, big 'uns, 55 mm in one case); *Geophilus electricus* seems to like gardens as well as anywhere else.

Don't forget the greenhouse too - *Dicellyphilus* and *Brachyschendyla monoeci*. Some species even come indoors regularly or irregularly; *L. forficatus*, *L. melanops*, *G. carpophagus*. *Scutigera* is reported from a paper mill and a wine cellar (Scotland), in a house (Essex) and in a bath (Jersey).

A recent gardening experience during the long, dry summer displays the value of the garden habitat as a hunting ground. A neighbour had dug a garden pond in the middle of his lawn, lined it and partially filled the pond with water. Into the water we poured a large amount of coarsely sieved topsoil from the excavation, to act as a soil base in which to grow the water plants. A large number of centipedes floated to the surface of the water and were rapidly "rescued" for the benefit of "Science". Amongst the species collected were *H. subterraneus*, *L. melanops*, *G. carpophagus*, *Necrophloeophagus longicornis*, *C. vesuviana*, *C. montana* and *G. electricus*. The latter two species are new vice-county records for the Isle of Wight.

On a smaller scale the floatation method could be well worth a try in your garden. All you need is a sieve, some soil and a bowl of water. (Even if you don't find any centipedes you can always make mud pies!)

#### ESTUARINE CENTIPEDES

A D Barber

Recent collections in S.W. England suggest that the "rare" species, *Geophilus fucorum* and *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* may be quite widespread in suitable habitats and it would be interesting to have more records from estuarine sites.

A typical location seems to be some way upriver with mud rather than sand as the substrate under stones on the beach slightly above mean high water. Large numbers of *Strigamia maritima* are usually found in the same place although not often under the same stone. Both of the two species named are yellowish-whitish rather than the reddish colour of *Strigamia* and may be up to 30 mm or more, the head being rather darker.

The *Schendyla* has rather characteristic last legs and a crenulate concavity to the poison claw. It is known from The Scillies to Sussex. *G. fucorum* has a clear carpophagus structure with the cavity occupying a large part of the breadth of the sternites. The number of coxal pores on the last legs seems variable from 2-3 to 4-5, and data on this would be of interest. It resembles *G. osquidatum* more than any other species. It has been recorded from Kent to Cornwall, Isle of Man, etc.

Both *Schendyla nemorensis* and *G. osquidatum* have also been recorded from shore sites, as have *N. longicornis* and *H. subterraneus*.

A female *Chaetechelyne vesuviana* Newport was observed from Newtown Creeks, Isle of Wight (map ref. 40/418918) on 25.6.1983 under a large stone near the top of a shingle bank. There was little vegetation cover and no litter. The specimen was curled around an egg mass of some 13 eggs (estimated); the eggs were brown and about 1.5 mm in diameter. The centipede had her dorsal surface in contact with the egg mass and her ventral surface exposed to the outside.

Once disturbed, the specimen started casting her head and anterior segments in an arc and covered the ground by touching it with the distal articles of her antennae. At the same time, the posterior segments were cast about in an arc across the ground using her last pair of legs in a similar manner to her antennae. At no time did she uncurl from or expose the egg mass.

The stone was carefully replaced over the specimen in the hope that the eggs would be brooded and hatched.

.....

A female *Haplophilus subterraneus* was observed in a garden (on a lawn) at Newport, Isle of Wight, feeding on a dead butterfly (*Pieris brassicae*). The butterfly had been observed to be dead on the previous day. The *Haplophilus* had its head inside a hole in the butterfly's thorax, with its antennae apparently folded backward over the cephalic plate, leaving the distal articles exposed to the air.

The *Haplophilus* was feeding on the butterfly in competition with several black ants (unidentified) which were attempting to gain access to the same hole as the one the centipede was using. When the ants came into contact with any part of the centipede they would rapidly withdraw and spend up to a minute cleaning their legs and/or antennae before returning to the centipede and repeating the cycle.

When touched by an ant the *Haplophilus* contracted that part of her body, perhaps this action being the mechanism by which defensive secretions are released onto the cuticle from the pores.

The *Haplophilus* continued feeding for some 23 minutes after it had initially been found, finally retracting its head from the hole and immediately cleaning both antennae by repeatedly drawing them between its forcipules and mandibles.

#### BRITISH CENTIPEDES DO BITE - TWO STORIES

..... 1 - Dr S Hopkin

While running a field course on Exmoor, June 1983, I found a Geophilomorph centipede under a stone curled round her eggs. I picked the animal up to show to students. Whilst I was explaining that British centipedes did not bite, the animal sank its poison claws into the soft skin on the underside of my third finger near the palm, giving the sensation of a nettle sting. I shook my hand vigorously, but the centipede didn't release its grasp for about five seconds, when it fell off and scurried away unidentified. Two

tiny punctures were left in my finger, which exuded blood when the skin was squeezed. The area around these swelled slightly and the bite was quite painful for about an hour. The puncture marks were just visible more than four weeks after the incident. The morals of this story are first, beware of making dogmatic statements to students for fear of immediate contradiction, and secondly, beware of arousing the maternal instincts of centipedes.

..... 2 - D T Richardson

Whilst handling a specimen of *Lithobius variegatus* it sank its poison claws into the soft skin on the underside of my wrist. The area surrounding the bite, approximately 10 mm in diameter, took on a reddish hue within three or four minutes and felt something like a nettle sting or midge bite. There was no obvious swelling. Unfortunately I treated the area with anti-histamine cream in order to reduce the irritation; this was a mistake, as more valuable information might have been forthcoming had I left things as they were.

#### SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES

Northern Biological Supplies - 3 Betts Avenue, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IP5 7HR. Tel. Ipswich (0473) 623995

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RICHARDSON, D.T. YORKSHIRE MILLIPEDES British Myriapod Group  
Newsletter. Spring 1983 (UNPUBLISHED)

CORRECTION - NEWSLETTER SPRING 1983

'Millipedes collected by A D Barber', etc. Plymouth April 1982:

DELETE *Chordeuma sylvestre* Lydcott Woods 3058

INSERT *Chordeuma sylvestre* Widlake Wood

Thanks to J Gordon Blower for pointing out this error.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Material intended for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be forwarded to:

Mr D T Richardson, 5 Calton Terrace, Skipton, North Yorks BD23 2AY  
by 14th May 1984.