



British Myriapod Group

Spring 1997

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Editor: Dick Jones

<http://www>.

As usual when I sit down to write I have little, if anything, to go on. What shall I write about. Not my holidays yet again surely (There haven't been any honest. Don't other people go to interesting myriapod places); the washing machine fire that could have wiped out all the records but was fortunately just confined to the kitchen (spectacular and messy but not relevant). A few phone calls later and nothing has emerged. Paul says if there is nothing then perhaps we could miss an issue. Numbers are down for the Field Weekend, gloom, gloom, gloom. Then suddenly things happen at the last minute and it's all systems go.

Little has happened on the recording front but there are a few stalwarts who are keeping things alive. Martin Cawley still keeps his end up in Ireland with among other things *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* and *Melogona scutellare* from Londonderry and County Waterford respectively.

Gordon Corbet has found a rubbish dump at the Botanic Garden, Glasgow that was still heaving with goodies even after the frosts. There he found *Cylindroiulus truncorum* and *C. vulnerarius*, both outdoors as well as the flatworm *Bipalium kewense* which I would very much like to see!

Other cards have come in from John Hunnisett, Bob Saville, Keith Alexander (with a scattering from both England and Ireland) and Tony Barber with a few from his holiday in Wales. John is rapidly becoming 'our man in Dorset' and is gradually filling in the county squares. On 25th of September 1996 from Granby Industrial Estate, Weymouth he found a *Scutigera* sp. which was duly seen by Tony Barber and myself. There seems very little doubt that it is *S. coleoptrata*, a species known from buildings in both Guernsey and Jersey. Weymouth is a main port for these islands.

I have been transferring my old vice-county distribution list from its old Locoscript format to a Word compatible format so it should be ready for the next Bulletin. I'm sick of the tab key but there is no other way. As the Atlas doesn't seem to be coming along at the moment the best way is to continue as before. I will have a list of the vice-counties that have recorded a millipede for the first time, going back to the Spring 1995 issue, in the next newsletter.

Maybe we can have another discussion at the next meeting in Galloway about where we are going. The meeting will be at St. John's Town of Dalry in Kirkcudbrightshire from April 3rd - 6th. It is not an area that any of us are very familiar with but you never know, with the things that are being found on the other side of Scotland, anything could turn up.

Ted Eason has gone through a copy of his excellent book and updated it for a second edition. With his update, plus the new species that have been found since

the first edition in 1964, and with the new distribution maps that we can generate from the stored data etc. it should be another great book. Further details, like who will publish it, as they become available.

We are not doing very well in the bid for millennium money, (see below) but that doesn't mean we can't be on the Net. Gordon Ramel has been in contact and wants to produce a page on millipedes. He has written a piece on Myriapods on the Net for this issue. We should be able to do something, any good ideas out there?

FAILED BID.

I have just heard that the bid for millennium money has failed. It did not have 'as distinctive an impact' as others selected for further consideration. That is it didn't have a fancy roof and wasn't at Greenwich! However, all is not yet lost. There is now 'a contingency plan which involves considering the future of the NERC/JNCC/WT/NHM consortium and considering alternative sources of funding and adjustments to the scope of the National Biodiversity Network establishment project'. Sounds a bit like civil servant speak for what do we do now to me. Watch this space.

***Leptoiulus belgicus* FROM PORTMIERION IN NORTH WALES.**

Amongst a collection of myriapods from Wales made at the end of August 1996 were specimens of *Leptoiulus belgicus* from leaf litter about 10m asl in woodland at Portmierion (VC 48, Merionydd) on 27.8.96. This is the most northerly record, so far, from mainland Britain although it is known from the northern part of Ireland. [*It is known from the other side of Britain at a rubbish tip in Norfolk, almost the same distance north.* Ed.] The Provisional Atlas of European Myriapods (R. D. Kime, 1990) shows it as far north as Belgium but the new Preliminary Atlas of the Millipedes of the Netherlands (M. P. Berg, 1995 - to be reviewed in the 1997 Bulletin) records it from two sites in Noord Holland.

The area is a peninsula between the sandy estuaries of the Glaslyn and the Dwryd, and the *Leptoiulus*, of which there were a number, were from a south facing slope from which *Nanogona polydesmoides*, *Cylindroiulus punctatus*, *Tachypodoiulus niger* and *Haplophilus subterraneus* were also collected. The area has been subjected to much human activity and lies close to and within the grounds of the well known Italianate village.

ADB

PRESUMED *Scutigera coleoptrata* IN BLACKPOOL.

Paul Richards sends us a note from Lancashire Wildlife Journal, 4. (1994) by M. Ainscough. 'At 10.45 pm on 11th August 1994 whilst watching the television, Sandie McQueen alerted me to a far more eye catching spectacle on the bare plaster wall to one side of the television. The wall had been earlier stripped of its wallpaper and about one meter above the floor on its now dry, smooth plaster surface was a large immobile arthropod

The animal was subsequently captured and released outside the house. The author describes the characteristic appearance of a *Scutigera* which he compares with that of *S. coleoptrata* in Michael Chinnery's 'Collins Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe' (1968) and notes slight differences in colour, etc. from the illustrations in that work. The house is within a few hundred metres of the M55 motorway and a thin scatter of industrial premises and shops. The species had not been noted during the previous five years' occupancy by Ms McQueen.

ADB

RECORDS FROM A GARDEN IN SUBURBAN SURREY.

A short time spent collecting in the small garden of a Victorian terraced house at Carshalton (London borough of Sutton) on a day in May 1996 yielded the following species:

Millipedes: *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus*, *Blaniulus guttulatus*.

Centipedes: *Haplophilus subterraneus*, *Henia brevis*, *Clinopodes linearis*,
Cryptops hortensis, *Lithobius forficatus* and *L. microps*.

This indicates the interesting variety of species seen in such synanthropic sites and the value of collecting in them. *Clinopodes (Geophilus) linearis* is widespread in the London area and may be regarded as a typical member of its fauna.

ADB

MYRIAPODS ON THE WEB

The World Wide Web is now so huge that it is not possible to guarantee finding all the sites available, however the search engine Alta Vista (<http://altavista.digital.com/>) is relatively quick and efficient. Performing searches always results in hundreds of apparent hits, many of which are not there or are not relevant. I have been able to thin the catch down to a more reasonable number, and the truth is that the Myriapoda are very poorly represented on the Web. For instance a search in Yahoo under millipedes brings up two hits, one is a record of what somebody keeps in a terrarium and the other is a pet shop that I could not access, while a similar search on <centipedes> produced "Centipede, The - a flexible, soft socket holder that is made in the USA with a lifetime warranty."

There are a few general sites which can be found which have an introduction to myriapods in general, these include (<http://www.bio.mq.edu.au/school/museum/arthropods/myriapoda.html>). One paragraph only, there are lots of these little useless sites around, and Photovault who store images and charge for their use (<http://www.photovault.com/Link/OrdersEntomologyInsects/yMyriapodsCentipedes.html>). Their blurb says "Photovault contains over 2500 stock images of Insects".

The following is a sampling of a few of these images in our Myriapods.

Centipedes

On centipedes there are a few more pages, including some dealing with care of people bitten by arthropods which include centipedes. However most of the sites are uninspiring as can be seen from the example below where I have pasted in the entire contents of the page. Centipedes in Hawaii :- (<http://www.maui.net/~team/chilopod.html>) "Centipede - a long flattened many segmented and many footed predaceous arthropod and each segment bears a pair of legs. AKA Chilopoda. You'll be glad to know that the fangs are just modified legs and poisonous. A real creature for leg lovers! Always well toned and in shape! Centipedes like damp, dark places, such as under piles of leaves or grass. If you "run across" one and have the presence of mind, throw a towel on it and, hopefully it will stop for having found a leafy-like haven! Understand that they are one of the fastest moving insects in Hawaii!"

Slightly more interesting you can see a four second quicktime movie of a centipede (I forget which one now) at (<http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/compost/inv gifs/centipede.mov>). There are several paragraphs on <The House Centipede> at (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/housece.html>) from Iowa USA. Others include (http://www.pharm.arizona.edu/centers/poison_center/critters/bugs/)

centipede.html) the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center's page on Centipedes. El Paso Arthropods: Centipedes at (<http://www.utep.edu/~epbionet/cheklist/arthropo/al06cent.htm>) is a single paragraph.

There is a much more interesting site on Centipedes at (<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~gjlramel/chilopod.html>) which is my own site but this did not come up in the searches so I think I need to tell the world about it some more.

Millipedes

Millipedes suffer from the same problem that centipedes do and the first hit is <The Mississippi State University Co-operative Extension Service page with the title Pest Management Practices for Home and Landscape, sub heading Millipedes> at (<http://www.ces.msstate.edu/pubs/is1533.htm>). The WWW is full of the American University Extension Services and in future I will refer to them as Blah Blah UES.

(<http://bluehen.ags.udel.edu/coopext/hyg/milliped.html>) is about controlling millipedes from Delaware UES, but with a nice picture. (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/mreenhou.html>) has several paragraphs on <Green House Millipedes>, some sort of polydesmoid by the description. While Millipedes in General from Iowa have several paragraphs at (<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/milliped.html>).

(<http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/msh/ov/ovb/ovbacalmil.html>) Is another example where I have pasted in the entire page, it is about cave millipedes. "White millipedes are sometimes spotted in Ape Cave. Their primary food is a fungus. This fungus grows on guano or organic debris in the cave. White millipedes have adapted to cave life. Since they do not go in the sun, they have gradually lost their colour as they have adapted to life underground."

The two most interesting millipede sites on the web are one by Henrik Enghoff and myself (my opinion is biased). (<http://www.aki.ku.dk/zmuc/ento/staff/he3.htm>) is a page where Henrik describes his research interests in Millipede evolution and (<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~gjlramel/milipede.html>) which is a care sheet for <Giant Millipedes>. Again this did not feature in the searches. I am part way through preparing a page on an introduction to millipedes, which will go up some time in the future, at (<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~gjlramel/diplopod.html>) but do not hold your breath. Anybody who would like to offer text or images to assist would be welcome and would of course be acknowledged. Particularly useful (for all myriapods) would be good clear colour photos, I have scanning capabilities, also of interest would be checklists, from anywhere and or species reports.

Gordon Ramel

NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER.

This will be out in the autumn. Material for inclusion should reach R.E.J. by the end of September.

Supplies of record cards and additional copies of the British Myriapod Group Newsletter can be obtained from the Biological Records Centre (BRC). Changes of address should be notified to Dick Jones, E-mail: rej@premier.co.uk or BRC. If you no longer wish to receive the BMG Newsletter, please notify BRC in writing. **Biological Records Centre, ITE, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, HUNTINGDON PE17 2LS** Tel: 01487 773 318 Fax: 01487 773 467 E-mail: pha@wpo.nerc.ac.uk

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