

HAPLOPHTHALMUS DANICUS BUDDÉ-LUND, 1880 IN SCOTLAND

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The UK distribution of *Haplophthalmus danicus* as recorded in Harding and Sutton (1985) has been extended considerably in England and Wales but it remains a scarce animal in northern England, apart from one 10km square NY35 near Carlisle (per Steve Gregory). In Scotland there are records in only two squares, NS56 in Glasgow and NS84 near Lanark, but they are both pre-1970.

It was not until the 1999 BMIG field meeting (Ford Castle, Northumberland) that it turned up again in Scotland, in vice county 81 Berwickshire; and at three further sites in 2001, in vice county 83 Edinburgh:

- i) 10.4.1999 Entrance to The Hirsell, Coldstream, NT835395.
- ii) 24.4.2001 East bank of the River Almond at Cramond, NT182762 (the west bank, 10m away, is in vice county 84 West Lothian, and I would be surprised if the species was not there as well).
- iii) 24.4.2001 Old parkland to the east of the Cramond kirk, NT192768.
- iv) 4.5.2001 Beeslack Wood on the banks of the River North Esk, Penicuik, NT244613, a different river catchment to the Almond.

All the four recent sites were in woodland with plenty of dead wood, also clearly synanthropic with houses and gardens nearby. I strongly suspect that the *H. danicus* has been introduced as the result of gardening activity, the surprise being that it has not been noticed before, since *H. mengei* has been recognised several times in the Lothians over the last few years, both synanthropically and "wild". A map showing the current known distribution is given in Figure 1.

However, *H. danicus* was not found (nor was *H. mengei*) during the Lothian "Secret Garden Survey" organised by the Lothian Wildlife Information Centre (1997) and Bob Saville (pers.comm.) of LWIC has none on his database. Initially in the mid-1990s, records were sent in by the public from 170 gardens in the Lothians; from these, 16 selected gardens across the region were surveyed in more detail over 18 months. Interestingly, *Trichoniscus pusillus* was recorded in 15 of the 16 gardens while *T. pygmaeus* was just once, although I find the latter quite frequently around Edinburgh. It may be that slow-moving, small white woodlice are simply mistaken as impossible-to-identify invertebrates or the young of larger woodlice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

Harding, P.T. & Sutton, S.L. (1985) *Woodlice in Britain and Ireland: Distribution and Habitat*. ITE.

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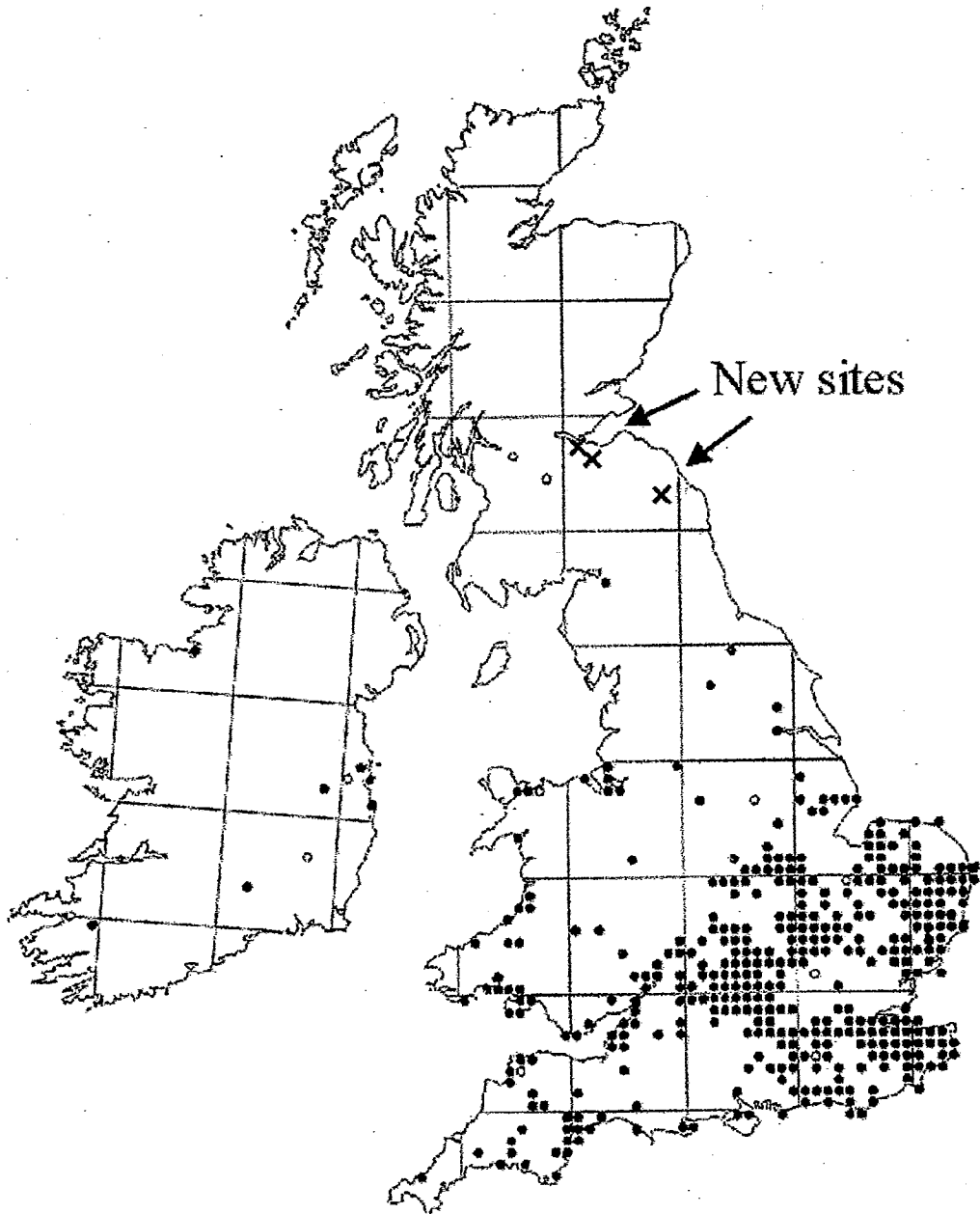


Figure 1
The current distribution of *H. danicus*