

FIFTY YEARS OF BRITISH MYRIAPOD STUDIES: RETROSPECT

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THE BRITISH MYRIAPODS AS KNOWN BY 1950

During the first half of the twentieth century, names associated with myriapod studies in Britain included R.I. Pocock, F.G. Sinclair, A. Randall-Jackson, R.S. Bagnall and H.K. and S.G. Brade-Birks. In his article *Myriapodology; Retrospect* in the first edition of the *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group* (Brade-Birks, 1972), Dr S.Graham Brade-Birks described how he and his wife, Dr Hilda had taken up myriapod studies back in 1915. A long series of papers “*Notes on Myriapoda*” culminated in the 1939 *Sources for description and illustration of the British Fauna* (Brade-Birks, 1939). This paper and others of the series together with work by F.A. Turk (1944) & S.W. Rolfe (1934, etc.) provided a baseline for myriapod studies in Britain in the second half of the twentieth century.

The Brade-Birks list included some 40 chilopods and 47 diplopods including two of the former, *Lithobius muticus* and *Chaetechelyne montana* (= *Henia brevis*) against which he placed a question mark. Turk (1944) confirmed the existence of the latter in Cornwall and added a glasshouse record of *Schendyla* (*Brachyschendyla*) *monoeci* to the British list. *L. muticus*, although not based on a published record, occurs in Dr Brade-Birks notes (No. 3061, Wye, 8.10.20, teste Ribaut & Brolemann) and is actually quite widespread in SE England; it was subsequently recorded from the New Forest by H. Roberts (unpub.) and elsewhere.

Allowing for synonyms, queries and indoor records some 30 chilopod and 39 diplopod species which have been subsequently recorded by other workers are established from the 1939 paper. Question marks must remain over *Lithobius agilis*, *Lithobius piceus britannicus*, *Schendyla zonalis* and *Eumastigonodesmus bonci*, none of which have been subsequently reported from Britain or Ireland. *Lithobius piceus piceus* is now known from a variety of sites in southern Britain although from different habitats to that given for *britannicus*. In addition to these records, there is a reference to *Lithobius tricuspis* in Great Britain in Brolemann (1930) and Bagnall (1913, 1930) had reported *Lithobius microps* and *L. erythrocephalus*.

1950 - 1970

1950 saw the beginning of a new era in myriapod studies in Britain. S.M. Manton (Manton, 1950) published the first of her series of papers on Arthropod Locomotory Mechanisms (many of which referred to the myriapod groups) and the same year saw the first note by Gordon Blower of Manchester on the aromatic tanning of myriapod cuticle (Blower, 1950).

1951 saw a second, more extended, paper on chilopod and diplopod cuticle (Blower, 1951). This was also the year in which the first of many papers on centipedes by E.H.(Ted) Eason, on the Chilopoda of Warwickshire & Worcestershire (Eason, 1951). Over the next few years a series of important papers on the British myriapod fauna were published by these two authors which included descriptions of new or little known species, county lists reports and synonymy of a number of our “species”.

Meanwhile, at Southampton University H. Roberts (1956) and S. Vaitilingham (1960) were working on the ecology of chilopods in the New Forest area and had established the presence of both *Lithobius muticus* and *L. piceus* in Hampshire. Unfortunately, much of their work remains unpublished although referred to in Lewis (1981).

At about the same time John Lewis was working on the ecology and life history of *Strigamia maritima* (Lewis, 1961a) which led to the discovery of three species of centipede new to Britain, *Pachymerium ferrugineum*, *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* and *Geophilus pusillifrater* (Lewis, 1960, 1961b). Further work on littoral centipedes, on desiccation tolerance in geophilomorphs and on *Lithobius forficatus* & *L. variegatus* followed before his time in Africa where he carried out work mostly on Scolopendromorpha. Gordon Blower had been his external examiner in 1959.

In 1950 there were no identification keys or comprehensive species descriptions in English for either centipedes or millipedes. Brade-Birks' paper had included reference sources for descriptions and Brolemann's (1930) book on Chilopoda included a key and descriptions most of the British centipedes. Unfortunately, the corresponding work for Diplopoda (Brolemann, 1935) only dealt with Colobgnatha and Nematophora so was of limited use to British workers. Brade-Birks and S.W. Rolfe (1934, etc.) had published descriptions / distinguishing characteristics for certain species.

It was in 1952 that Gordon Blower's paper on *British millipedes with special reference to Yorkshire species* (Blower, 1952) appeared. This included not only a list of all the species then considered as British but also, for the first time a key to British species. The corresponding work on centipedes (Blower, 1955a) similarly set a base line for that group although, in this case, without a key (far less necessary because of the availability of that of Brolemann). He continued to publish papers on various species but at the same time was writing on ecology and life cycles starting with his account of millipedes and centipedes as soil animals (Blower, 1955b) and going on until his *Anamorphosis in Millipedes* with W.Dohle and H.Enghoff (Blower, Dohle & Enghoff, 1993).

The logical next stage was a full synopsis and key to British millipedes and this appeared under the auspices of the Linnean Society in 1958 (Blower, 1958). British workers now had an authoritative and detailed account of our species, much synonymy had been sorted out and the illustrations were of the meticulous high standard characteristic of his work. It was appropriate both to those specifically interested in myriapods or in soil/terrestrial invertebrates generally. 45 species were listed of which 39 are currently recognised as being recorded outdoors. Included in the list were *Geoglomeris jurassica* (= *Geoglomeris subterranea*), *Microchordeuma gallicum* (= *Melogona gallica*), *Leptoiulus kervillei* and *Metaiulus pratensis*. The last two species had been described as new to Britain and new to science respectively by Blower & Rolfe (1956). By the time the second edition appeared in 1985 the whole scene had changed; millipedes were being recorded nationally on a systematic basis and identification was (relatively) straightforward.

It was in 1964 that Warne published E.H. Eason's *Centipedes of the British Isles* (Eason, 1964), neither a Linnean Society Synopsis nor especially similar to that publisher's "Wayside and Woodland" books. This included comprehensive descriptions and excellent drawings with notes on known distribution and keys to each of the orders. 44 species were included with *Lithobius aulacopus* (= *L.macilentus*) and *Nesoporogaster souletina brevior* (= *Nesoporogaster brevior*) joining the Turk, Roberts, Vaitilingham and Lewis additions to the Brade-Birks list. At £3.3s (£3.15) it was relatively expensive as a "popular" book but it successfully established its value and continues to have use today (although a new centipede key is currently being prepared which will make use of the Eason drawings).

Hence by the mid 1960s identification works were available for both centipedes and millipedes. These coupled with help and encouragement given by both Ted Eason and Gordon Blower to anyone who contacted them set the stage for a wider interest in myriapod studies. Desmond Kime and the present author, who were working together at Guildford were thus drawn in to an interest in these animals. At the same time, Gordon Blower's influence at Manchester led to studies on various aspects of millipede biology by research students. Colin Fairhurst (1942-1994) emerged from this "school" of myriapod studies at Manchester, led by Gordon Blower which included also Charles Brookes (1938-83) (Blaniulidae) and Peter Miller (millipede life histories) and, in due course, Henk Littlewood (coxal glands in Lithobiomorpha) and Helen Read. Colin was to be instrumental in setting up the myriapod recording schemes as well as making his own contributions on schizophylline millipedes and other fields of zoology.

Apart from the work of Richard Bagnall, Symphyla and Pauropoda attracted little interest in 20th century Britain. However, in 1959 Clive Edwards published a synopsis of British Symphyla (Edwards, 1959). An attempt to develop further interest in the Group by Steve Hopkin in the late 1980s (Hopkin, 1988) has so far not borne fruit. Various reports and lists of pauropods from Britain have been published by P.A.Remy and Ulf Scheller and others (see Barber, Blower & Scheller, 1992).

1968 saw the First International Congress of Myriapodology in Paris, attended from Britain by Gordon

Blower, Colin Fairhurst, Joan Lewis (later Fairhurst), John Lewis and Ted Eason. This meeting led to the setting up of the Centre Internationale de Myriapodologie whose annual lists of publications on the myriapod groups and onychophorans have helped to keep the wider myriapod community in touch. The international dimension in British myriapod studies (H.K.Brade-Birks corresponded with Brolemann, Ribaut and others) continues and develops with the present ease of electronic communication.

THE BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

By 1970, John Lewis had returned from Africa and Gordon Blower saw the value of forming some sort of society for those interested in myriapod studies. A meeting was called at Brendon in North Devon at the Easter of 1970. Present were Adrian Baker, Tony Barber, Gordon Blower, Charles Brookes, Ted Eason, Colin & Joan Fairhurst, Desmond Kime, John Lewis, Peter Miller, Bill Rolfe and Richard Williams (with apologies from Peter Langton and F.A.Turk). Much valuable discussion took place, a new British centipede species, *Chalandea pinguis* was found and the Millipede and Centipede recording schemes were launched. These latter were based on record cards designed by the British Isopod Study Group (see Harding & Sutton, 1985) and, a new feature compared with most recording schemes, incorporated habitat as well as distribution data. The schemes were organised in association with the British Biological Records Centre and are still in operation.

The following year there followed another enthusiastic meeting at Kington on the English-Welsh borders and in 1972 took place the Second International Congress at Manchester with Canon Brade-Birks as president. It was here that the first issue of the *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group* appeared, including a review of current knowledge of millipede distribution in Britain by Gordon Blower, the editor. It is interesting to look through the Symposium volume of the Zoological Society (Blower, 1974) which emerged from the congress: amongst names from Britain are M.J Cotton, A. Curry, C.A. Edwards, H.J. Gough, J. Heath, S. Malcolm, S.M. Manton, J. Round, W.N. Sakwa, V. Standen, R. Turner, J.A. Wallwork and R.J. Williams as well as most of those mentioned above.

During the remainder of the 1970s there were no further meetings and apparent inactivity on the part of the group. A second volume of the Bulletin was prepared but did not emerge. However British delegates attended international symposia in Hamburg (1975), Gargnano (1978) and Radford (1981) and in 1981 John Lewis published his *Biology of Centipedes* (Lewis, 1981).

The recording schemes continued to collect data and a variety of new workers came forward. Amongst these, special mention must be made of Doug Richardson, an outspoken and enthusiastic Yorkshireman who seemed to be organising recording of all non-insect arthropod groups in his native county in the 1970s onwards, who contributed large numbers of record cards to both the isopod and myriapod recording schemes, meticulously recorded every grid square in the county (or so it seemed) and produced a variety of valuable reports. He went on to become the first editor of the BMG newsletter and in due course national organiser for the millipede recording scheme. Amongst his other contributions was the introduction of Paul Lee to myriapod studies when he attended the Manchester meeting in 1986).

Andy Keay made contact with the recording schemes in 1977 and as well as a systematic study of the myriapods of the Isle of Wight (including finding *Trachysphaera lobata* there) and enthusiastic study of *Henia vesuviana* was a regular member of group meetings and contributor of many records to the recording schemes. He played a major role in the organisation of the data used in the provisional centipede atlas (Barber & Keay, 1988).

REVIVAL & RENEWAL

In the early 1980s, Ron Daniel of what is now the University of Plymouth, had worked with Gordon Blower at Manchester whilst taking his MSc. He came back with an enthusiasm for millipedes and made contact with the present author. Largely on his own initiative and with the help of Peter Smithers he organised a myriapod group meeting in Plymouth in April 1982 and so the revival of the BMG as a group rather than just a name was initiated. Caught up in the enthusiasm, Doug Richardson organised the publication of the first newsletter in early 1983. In the absence of a Bulletin, this contained an article on *Lithobius variegatus* by Ted Eason, reports on the Plymouth meeting and material on centipede identification.

In 1983 took place the first joint meeting of the British Myriapod Group and the British Isopod Study Group at St. Martin's College, Lancaster with 28 members present according to the report of the time. The subsequent Newsletter included vice-county records for millipedes as an interim base for distribution studies (the recording schemes used the 10km grid square). These vice-county lists were to be a feature for a number of years for both centipedes and millipedes, recording progress and encouraging new searches.

The next year, at Brancaster, Norfolk (reputedly the coldest meeting so far, even compared with Scotland in the snow) was organised by Tony Irwin and Dick Jones. The latter went on to become a very active member of the group and at various times edited the newsletter (1988-98) and organised the millipede recording scheme as well as contributing many drawings to accounts of species and carrying on his own work on geophilomorph centipedes. That year, members were able to visit Dick's garden and see the only known (still) British site for *Unciger foetidus*.

In January 1985, the second volume of the *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group* appeared despite the fact that in one bookseller's catalogue Volume 1 had been described as the "only volume published". It included reports on *Thalassiosobates littoralis* (P.T. Harding), British Chordeumatidae (J.G. Blower), *Chaetechelyne* (= *Henia*) *vesuviana* (A.N. Keay), the European Myriapod Survey (R.D. Kime) and the Millipede Recording Scheme (C.P. Fairhurst) together with obituaries and a note on three centipede species not included in *Centipedes of the British Isles* (*Brachyschendyla dentata*, *Chalandea pinguis* and *Lithobius tricuspis*). Since that time the Bulletin has appeared approximately annually and by 2002 had reached Volume 18 by which time it had become the *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group*.

BMG/BISG meetings took place at Bangor, North Wales (1985) and at Manchester Polytechnic (1986). The latter was the venue for the Charles Brookes memorial meeting addressed by Wolfgang Dohle on Myriapoda and the Ancestry of Insects (Dohle, 1986). At this meeting, the second edition of the millipede synopsis (Blower, 1985) became available. Much extended from the first edition, it included *Adenomeris gibbosa* (Ireland), the two species of *Chordeuma* (*C. proximum* and *C. sylvestre*), *Cylindroiulus vulnerarius* and *C. truncorum*, *Enantiulus armatus* and *Unciger*. The two species *Cylindroiulus londinensis* and *C. caeruleocinctus* were distinguished as separate species and a number of nomenclatural changes were made. *Nopoiulus minutus*, now to be known as *N. kochii* was described under the terms "There remains no evidence that *N. minutus* (= *venustus* in the sense of Schubart, 1934) has ever occurred in Britain, but there is a possibility that it may occur". The subsequent Newsletter (September 1986) records "the first specimen of *N. kochii* to be seen by extant myriapodologists and checked by H. Enghoff was collected by Steve Hopkin on waste land adjoining the University Department of Zoology". Like the occurrence of *Lithobius muticus* (considered to be a species of SE England) in Delamere Forest at the same meeting, the myriapods continued to surprise us.

Steve Hopkin went on to make a number of valuable contributions to myriapod studies including co-authorship with Helen Read of the Biology of Millipedes (Hopkin & Read, 1992). Other names recorded as making collections at that meeting were Adrian Rundle (who seemed to be able to find myriapods of interest in the most unlikely places) and Eric Philp (stalwart of biological recording in Kent).

PROGRESS

The 1987 joint meeting was at Langford in the Mendips and additional names recorded in the autumn Newsletter were Keith Alexander (National Trust, Gloucestershire), David Bilton (later to be co-ordinator for the terrestrial isopod recording scheme), John Bratton, Noel Jackson, Paul Lee, Ian Morgan (many valuable records from South Wales), Charles Rawcliffe (Edinburgh) and Helen Read. Of these, Noel was known for his singing in the bar, Paul was to become co-ordinator of the millipede recording scheme, Newsletter editor and significant contributor to myriapod recording and Helen was to become, initially informally, later formally, secretary of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group in addition to contributions to diplopod taxonomy and other important roles. Also present were Marie-Louise Célérier and Jean-Jacques Geoffroy from Paris and Maija and Martin Rantala from Finland.

For the 1988 meeting, the group visited the Mid Wales area (Newbridge on Wye); the highlight was probably Andy Keay recording *Lithobius tenebrosus* from Aberystwyth, the first "modern" record of this species. The

Newsletter recording this also refers to the finding of what turned out to be *Cylindroiulus salcivorus* from a greenhouse at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh by Charles Rawcliffe (previously collected also by Adrian Rundle). Charles also, in due course, collected *Lithobius lapidicola* from a similar location.

1988 was also the year in which *Nothogeophilus turki* from the Scilly Isles (Lewis et al, 1988) was first described and named in honour of Frank Turk who had himself collected it in the islands although it had remained unidentified. It was also the year of publication of the Provisional Atlas for centipedes (Barber & Keay, 1988) and the Preliminary Atlas for millipedes (BMG, 1988). Whilst the latter showed distribution data on a 10km National Grid square basis, the former also incorporated processed habitat data, thus realising the extended role of the recording cards as planned at the start of the recording schemes.

Subsequent meetings over the next few years were at Hallsannery, North Devon (1989), Thornham Magna, Suffolk (1990), Swanage, Dorset (1991), Littledean, Forest of Dean (1991), Hassocks, West Sussex (1993) and Meigle, Perthshire (1994). All were occasions for socialisation, collecting, exchanging of ideas, help with collection and identification. By this time, Paul Richards of Sheffield and Steve Gregory from Oxford were regular members of the group. Paul continues to make important records from his area of the Sorby Natural History Society and elsewhere and wrote a useful handbook on *Millipedes, Centipedes and Woodlice of the Sheffield Area* (Richards, 1995). Steve is doing similarly valuable work on myriapods both in his area and elsewhere and has published an *Atlas of Oxfordshire Myriapoda* (Gregory & Campbell, 1996). Amongst his many other contributions is the discovery of a new species of millipede, *Anthogona britannica* n.sp. from South Devon (Gregory, Jones & Mauries, 1993).

The organisation of the two groups remained very informal with ideas for subsequent year's meetings being agreed at the current one and one or two people agreeing to organise it with possible fall-back plans for an alternative. Such a system seemed to work remarkably well most of the time although, eventually, in order to legitimise the holding of a BMG bank account, various official titles were agreed. As far as possible, the groups tried to have one meeting in the south and one in northern England / Scotland alternately.

The Meigle meeting (at which Bob Mesibov of Tasmania was present) was, in part, a reflection of another "new" member of the group, Gordon Corbet who, having retired from mammal studies at the British Museum (NH) had returned to his native country. Before doing so he had already found the second British record of *Pachymerium ferrugineum* in 1989 from the Suffolk coast and has been recording myriapods ever since, collecting both *Melogona voigti* and *Lithobius lucifugus* (an alpine species from a churchyard in Edinburgh), new to the British Isles.

1994 was also the year in which a small group (6 members) joined Zoltán Korsós of Budapest for a collecting trip in Hungary (May-June).

The Bulletin continued to be published approximately annually throughout this time, now edited by A.D. Barber & H.J. Read. Its 1996 volume (Volume 12) was notable for reporting *Anthogona britannica* and *Melogona voigti* referred to earlier together with *Haplopodoiulus spathifer* from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and two of its outposts (first collected by A.J. Rundle in 1976), *Polydesmus barberii*, collected by D.E. Bolton from several Devon sites and a new Irish species, *Anamastigona pulchellum* (collected by R. Anderson from County Down). It also recorded the death of the late F.A. Turk (1911-1996).

FORMAL ORGANISATION

Meetings continued each year, with varying numbers and personalities, in the Lake District (Rowrah Hall), Dorset (Kingcome), Galloway (Dalry), West Cornwall (Chyvarloe) and Northumberland (Ford Castle). By this time, discussion about a merger of the two groups or the formation of a broad arthropod/invertebrate group were becoming more serious, largely at the instigation of Paul Harding (Isopoda & Biological Records Centre) who saw advantages in this as the way forward in terms of recognition and even possibly funding. At the Ford Castle meeting it was agreed to prepare for the formation of a joint group and at the subsequent meeting at Audley End, Essex in 2000 a constitution was adopted, officers were elected and the British Myriapod and Isopod Group was officially formed. In consequence the Bulletin was renamed and first appeared under its new title in 2001.

The Cornish meeting was marked, amongst other things, by the presence of Wallace Arthur & Chris Kettle from Sunderland University. Wallace had been attracted to geophilomorph centipedes to study segmentation and related topics and has subsequently, generally in collaboration with other authors, published a series of papers on the group. These have included the separation of the two forms of “*Geophilus carpophagus*” into two distinct species, *Geophilus carpophagus* ss (the “long” form) and *Geophilus easoni* (the “short” form) (Arthur et al, 2001). It was the late Ted Eason who (Eason, 1979) had first drawn attention to the two forms of that “species”.

Myriapod recording in Ireland over the last fifty years had involved various workers, most notably Declan Doogue with diplopods and there had been a variety of reports on species over the years and by 2000 Martin Crawley and others were recording centipedes as well as millipedes (Doogue et al, 1993, Cawley, 1997, 2001a, 2001b). The annual BMIG meeting for 2001 was planned for Dingle in the Irish Republic, postponed because of foot and mouth disease, it took place in the autumn of that year, notably due to the efforts of Derek Whitely, another Sheffield man, who also organised the meeting in Derbyshire (Youlgreave) the following year.

By the end of 2001 with the deaths of Ted Eason and Gordon Blower, the BMIG had lost the two most important British myriapod workers of the second half of the twentieth century who had through their interest and encouragement, as well as their own scholarly activities had substantially broadened the base of myriapod studies in the British Isles. Ted’s last myriapod paper was on Lithobiomorpha from Kirghizia & Kazazakhstan (Eason, 1997) whilst that of Gordon had been a joint one with Henrik Enghoff and Wolfgang Dohle on anamorphosis in millipedes (Blower et al, 1993). These topics themselves give some indication of the breadth of their respective contributions to myriapod studies.

“Biodiversity” is now a key environmental issue with a National Biodiversity Network and other organisations. Thanks to Paul Harding’s work six millipedes were placed on the BAP long list, one the common *Nanogona polydesmoides* for whom Britain is a major area of its occurrence. BMIG, now a formally constituted and functioning society, joins with others in increasing awareness of invertebrate issues, has been involved in the setting up of the Invertebrate Conservation Trust (Buglife) and has now, itself, affiliated to the British Entomological & Natural History Society. Thanks to our many recorders, both of the myriapod recording schemes continue to accumulate records and our knowledge of the distribution of our species is now far more extensive although the reasons behind some of the distribution patterns remain unclear. There is a twice yearly Newsletter, the Bulletin, a committee, meeting on a regular basis, one or more field meetings each year and, thanks to the work of Craig Slawson, a Web Site. Through the latter and by other means, a greater awareness of BMIG’s existence is occurring and contact by research students and others increases.

A species count for 2003 includes 46 centipedes and 53 millipedes confirmed from outdoor locations in Great Britain (Table 1 & 2).

Table 1.

Numbers of species (from outdoor sites) recorded by Brade-Birks (1939), Blower (1958), Eason (1964), Blower (1985) and currently.

	CHILOPODA	DIPLOPODA
Brade-Birks (1939)	31	39
Blower (1958)	-	43
Eason (1964)	36	-
Blower (1985)	-	48
Current	46	53
Ireland only	-	2
Glasshouses, etc.	3	5
Queries	3	1

Table 2

Species of Chilopoda and Diplopoda recorded as present in Great Britain or Ireland since the publication of Eason (1964) (Chilopoda) or Blower (1985) (Diplopoda).

CHILOPODA

**Tygarrup javanicus* Lewis & Rundle, 1988

Schendyla (Brachyschendyla) dentata Barber & Eason, 1970

Geophilus easoni Arthur et al, 2001

Geophilus proximus Barber, 1986

Chalanda pinguis Blower, 1972

Arenophilus peregrinus Jones, 1989

Nothogeophilus turki Lewis et al, 1988

Lithobius peregrinus Barber & Eason, 1986

Lithobius tricuspis Eason, 1965

Lithobius lapidicola Barber, 1982

Lithobius lucifugus Barber, 1993

DIPLOPODA

Trachysphaera lobata Jones & Keay, 1986

Anthogona britannica Gregory et al, 1993

Anomastigona pulchellum (Ireland) Anderson, 1996

Melogona voigti Corbet, 1996

Haplopodoiulus spathifer Corbet & Jones, 1986

**Cylindroiulus salicivorus* Read et al, 2002

Polydesmus barberii Bolton & Jones, 1996

**Poratia digitata* Blower & Rundle, 1986

* from glasshouses or similar

Julida represent about half of our total diplopod species whilst Geophilomorpha are the largest group of chilopods. In addition to these, two millipedes are known only from Ireland (*Adenomeris gibbosa*, *Anomastigona pulchellum*) and there are both centipedes and millipedes known only from hothouses or other indoor locations. Notable amongst the latter are the “house centipede” *Scutigera coleoptrata* recorded intermittently from various British locations, most recently from Weymouth and known to be widespread in both Jersey and Guernsey and the greenhouse millipede *Oxidus gracilis*. The status of *Schendyla zonalis*,

Lithobius piceus britannicus, *Lithobius agilis*, *Lithobius erythrocephalus* and *Eumastigonodesmus bonci* remain unsettled.

Records for both groups continue to come into the recording schemes. Some of our “new” species such as *Lithobius peregrinus* have not been found locations outside their original ones whilst others such as *Schendyla dentata* have proved to be widespread in suitable sites, at least in southern England.

For the near future, we look forward to a new version of the millipede atlas thanks to the work of Paul Lee, Paul Harding and others and then, in due course, hopefully an updated version of the centipede one. Ted Eason’s centipede book, although published nearly 40 years ago, remains the standard work with its outstanding quality of descriptions and diagrams but there has been an obvious need for an updated centipede identification key and work is in hand to produce this, making use of his original illustrations. Hopefully, species recording (important in monitoring climatic change amongst other things) will go on for the foreseeable future, the Bulletin will continue (given sufficient contributions) and the group will go forward into the new century building on the work of the last.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people over the years have provided help and encouragement to myriapod studies, not least Ted Eason and Gordon Blower themselves. Thanks must also be given to all those who have, at various times contributed to the recording schemes. A few are mentioned above but hundreds of names have been noted as collectors over the thirty years of the two schemes.

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