

Editorial

As we have celebrated the first BMIG field meeting for three of years, several articles in the 2022 edition of the Bulletin help to put our British fauna in a wider context. Artsiom Ostrovsky discusses woodlice in Belarus, listing several species that are very familiar to us, but some that have a more eastern distribution and therefore (as yet) unknown to British workers. Several articles add to our knowledge of the British fauna. Keith Lugg, Steve Gregory and Mike Pennington celebrate the re-finding of *Geophilus proximus* on Shetland after almost 50 years, Nicola Garnham and Steve Gregory report on the re-finding of *Lamyctes africanus*, first collected in 1986 in Edinburgh and not seen since and the woodlouse list is increased by the identification of *Armadillidium arcangelii* from the Eden Project. In contrast, Jean Jacques Geoffroy, Helen Read and Henrik Enghoff have demonstrated that the long forgotten millipede *Cylindroiulus bouvieri* is in fact *C. parisorum*.

An article by David Cabanillas and Jairo Robla looks at the number of legs and body length in *Pachymerium ferrugineum* in the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands, examining if any ecological variables are able to explain these differences. In 1902, Verhoeff had distinguished a form of *Pachymerium ferrugineum* with a higher number of leg-bearing segments as “*insulanum*” and there have been a number of other studies regarding segment numbers of this species, and other geophilomorphs, in Europe. In the British Isles we have two types, referred to as “short form” and “long form” here, the latter being found by Andy Marquis from Guernsey, see *Bulletin* Volume 32: 72-83.

The topic of segmentation and the number of leg-bearing segments in geophilomorphs has continued to be of interest in the British Isles. Ted Eason recognised that *Geophilus carpophagus* in Britain appeared to have two distinct populations based on the range of numbers of leg pairs. This ultimately led to the separation of *G. easoni* from *G. carpophagus* sensu stricto by Wallace Arthur and his colleagues. Many years earlier, Ted Eason had described the British population of “*Nesoporogaster souletina brevior*” – what we now call *Stigmatogaster souletina* – because it had fewer leg pairs than those from Mainland Europe. Despite the *brevior* epithet, the species has more legs than any other British centipede!

This *Bulletin* is a bumper edition for centipedes which is a fitting tribute to Tony Barber. In November 2021 Tony was presented with the Marsh Award by the British Entomological and Natural History Society at their annual exhibition, for his work on centipedes over the last 50 years. In 1970 Tony had attended the first meeting of the British Myriapod Group (as it was then) convened by Gordon Blower, with Colin Fairhurst, John Lewis and others. The British Myriapod Survey developed from this meeting for which Colin Fairhurst (millipedes) was working on a common habitat recording card for myriapods and isopods with Stephen Sutton and Paul Harding (isopods), and Tony joined in to cover centipedes. Tony has been the centipede recording scheme organiser ever since! Tony has edited the *Bulletin* since 1985 when he helped revive its publication and has also served on the BMIG Committee including as Chairman for several years. Helping people to learn to identify centipedes has always been a high priority for Tony, by producing keys and running training events, helping to boost the number of records submitted to the centipede recording scheme. In his activities Tony has built on the previous work by Colin Fairhurst, John Lewis, Gordon Blower and Desmond Kime – all of whom he would like to pay tribute too. He would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to centipede recording, the *Bulletin* and BMIG in general.

The forthcoming atlas will be testament to his hard work over many years.