

Editorial

In this edition of the *Bulletin* we celebrate a new atlas and provide extensive updates to an old one. The publication of the centipede atlas was a milestone in our knowledge of British centipedes, not only in their distribution across Britain and Ireland but also providing insights into their ecology and phenology. The review of the Atlas in this Bulletin also provides an opportunity to celebrate a lifetime of work on centipedes by its author, Tony Barber.

The woodlouse atlas (Gregory, 2009) was published 15 years ago and there have been many changes to the fauna since. As running the woodlouse recording scheme has passed over from Steve Gregory to Thomas Hughes, this has provided a moment to take stock of these changes and publish some updated maps. Much of this Bulletin has been taken over to this aim and Steve provides a fantastic resource for us to continue to build upon in the future. Thomas has made a great start in taken up the reins of the recording scheme by finding a species of woodlouse, *Ctenoscia minima*, new to Britain and by monitoring the ongoing colonisation by *Armadillidium arcangelii*; both of which are also reported herein.

Also, a good few years ago, it seems (1996), Philip Wheeler and Helen Read published a little book in the Naturalists' Handbook series called *Animals under Logs and Stones*, looking at the range of what may be called the "cryptozoa". In 2023 a very much enlarged and very welcome second edition by the same authors (plus Charlotte Wheeler) became available. As before, this includes our myriapods and woodlice in a wider context and is reviewed in this *Bulletin*.

Prompted by Paul Harding who had, himself, written an account of BMG's (slightly older) sister organisation BISG (Harding, 2018) and reflecting back on the early years of the British Myriapod Group, Tony Barber reminisces on BMG's development and, in particular, the people involved in its early years. We continue to build our knowledge by standing on the shoulders of those that went before us and remembering their part in the formation of BMIG.

Sadly, in this volume we also remember the passing of some key scientists working on our groups. Stephen Sutton was an important figure in the world of woodlice in Britain despite living and working abroad for many years and his early work helped inspire a generation of future Isopodologists. Desmond Kime was a true European, starting his working life in England, he moved to Brussels and then southern France continuing to maintain his interest in millipedes throughout. Although his best known work will probably be his massive achievement of the three volumes of the European atlas of millipedes, co-authored with Henrik Enghoff, he also provided insights into the ecology of these interesting animals. For those who knew him, he was also renowned for his ability to know the best places to eat in any town!

We are also indebted to the work of Jean-Paul Mauriès of the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris for his studies on the taxonomy of millipedes. He described very many species including some found by British workers and some that are now being found in this country. We continue to remain grateful to all those people upon whose shoulders we stand.

References

- Gregory, S.G. (2009). *Woodlice and waterlice in Britain and Ireland*. Shrewsbury, FSC Publications.
- Harding, P.T. (2018). "Per Isopoda ad Astra" - 50 Years of Isopod Recording. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group*. **30**: 2-11.