

***Ctenoscia minima* (Dollfus, 1892) (Isopoda: Oniscidea: Philosciidae): the earliest British record from Ventnor Botanic Gardens, Isle of Wight**

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On 3rd September 2016, three specimens of an unfamiliar philosciid woodlouse were collected by looking under stones in the hothouse at Ventnor Botanic Gardens, Isle of Wight (SZ546768, VC 10). It was recognised that they were a species new to Britain, and the eye composed of a single large ommatidium suggested that they were *Ctenoscia minima*. However, the sample contained no adult males, and a comparison with specimens from Galicia, Spain, donated by Steve Gregory was inconclusive. On a return visit on 12th February 2019, no further specimens could be found, but since moving to Ventnor in August 2022, the woodlouse has been seen frequently in the hothouse, sometimes in good numbers.

In June 2024, a female specimen from Ventnor Botanic Gardens was sent to Thomas Hughes, who was able to confirm it as *Ctenoscia minima* by comparison with specimens from the Essex population he had discovered in 2023 (Hughes, 2024), remarking that the tegumental setae, single ommatidium and body colouration are reasonably diagnostic of *Ctenoscia minima*.

There can be little doubt that the Ventnor Botanic Gardens population of *Ctenoscia minima* has a non-native origin, presumably imported accidentally with plants.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Steve Gregory for assistance with identifying this woodlouse, and to Thomas Hughes for finally confirming its identity.

Reference

Hughes, T.D. (2024). *Ctenoscia minima* (Dollfus, 1892): a woodlouse new for the British Isles from a Garden Centre in Essex (Isopoda: Oniscidea: Philosciidae). *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group*, **36**: 2-8.