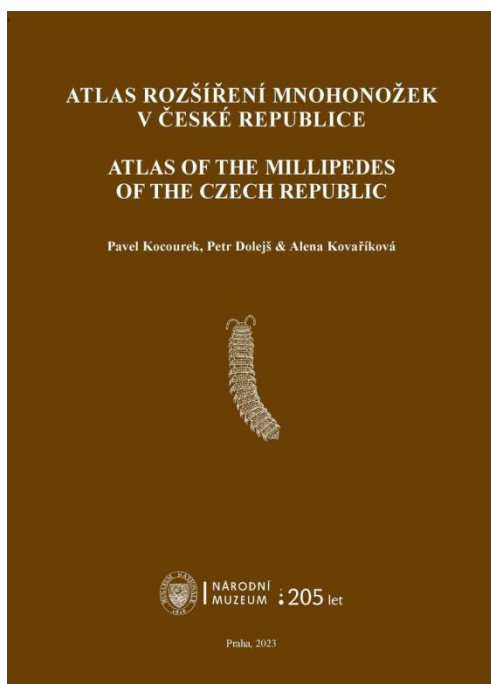


Atlas of the millipedes of the Czech Republic



By Pavel Kocourek, Petr Dolejš & Alena Kovaříková (In Czech)

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Although this paperback is in Czech it has an English summary and the titles and headers in the initial figures and tables are in English as well as Czech. The introductory section consists of a species list (81 species in total), information about the methods and people who have contributed to the atlas as well as some overview maps. Building on knowledge prior to 2017, extensive fieldwork between 2018 and 2022 has resulted in very few 10km grid squares with no records of millipedes, representing geographical coverage of more than 80% of the country. During this fieldwork four new species to the country were also found. A map showing the number of species recorded from each square highlights areas good for millipedes with a number having between 21 and 44 species found. A table summarises the ecological characteristics of each species

according to an ecological classification with 19 species are considered to be eurytopic and just five synanthropic. The table also lists the number of grid squares each species has been found in. From this it can be seen that *Julus scandinavicus*, *Unciger foetidus* and *Polydesmus complanatus* are the most widespread species being found in more than 300 of the 677 squares in the Czech Republic. The next most widespread (found in more than 200 squares) being *Glomeris hexasticha*, *Megaphyllum projectum* and *Polydesmus denticulatus*. The fauna therefore has clear similarities with that of Britain, but includes some more continental elements.

The bulk of the book consists of maps for each species (presented alphabetically) with a line drawing, a short amount of text and a list of the map squares in which it has been found. From the maps clear distribution patterns can be identified. *Brachyiulus pusillus* seems to be confined to a small area in the south west (along with several other species) whereas *Brachychaeteuma bradae* has only been found in 12 squares but these are widely scattered across the whole country. *Polyzonium germanicum* in contrast has a northern and eastern distribution. An area in the western central part of the country seems to be particularly rich for millipedes, which may reflect higher intensity of collecting since this is around Prague. My understanding would have been enhanced by some information about the geography of the Czech Republic which may be given in the introductory text. However, as the maps are so visual and there are sufficient species in common with Britain that it is interesting browsing through them. The book contributes to our understanding and knowledge of British species, as well as introducing some more continental/eastern species which may be encountered during travels in continental Europe.

The book can be obtained from:

<https://www.nm.cz/e-shop/atlas-rozsireni-mnohonozek-v-ceske-republice-atlas-of-the-millipedes-of-the-czech-republic>

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