
Obituaries

Richard Desmond Kime (1932-2023)

Richard Desmond Kime, fondly known as ‘Des’, died aged 91 at home in Nontron, France on 12th September 2023. He will be greatly missed and we send our condolences to Kathleen and their family.

Born and brought-up in Lincolnshire, his interest in natural history was fostered by his grandfather. He studied zoology at the University of Durham, where his postgraduate research on hole-nesting birds included work on fleas (Kime, 1962). With a postgraduate Diploma in Education, he went on to teach Biology, Botany and Zoology at the Royal Grammar School (RGS) in Guildford, eventually as Head of Biology. In 1964 Des was joined by a similarly qualified new teacher, Tony Barber.

A former pupil at RGS, Dr Jon Garvey, has summed-up Des Kime’s influences as a teacher. Having had to drop biology until the 6th form, Garvey felt that he started from scratch under Des Kime and Tony Barber in 1967. He commented that *Des was quietly spoken, and always calm and affable, whether he had us identifying invertebrates from the school grounds (including myriapods, of course), studying chicken embryology in that formalin and rabbit-scented lab, or explaining the mysteries of the Hardy-Weinberg equation. It’s hard to say just how he motivated us, as there was no exaggerated enthusiasm. I think it was his obvious mastery of the science, his openness to discussion, and his readiness to point us to relevant sources so we could educate ourselves. But motivate us he did.* After successful A level results, Des organised an excursion to the Three Pigeons in Guildford High Street with a few star pupils to celebrate with an (underage) beer: they had, to Des, now come of biological age.

Despite their teaching commitments at RGS, Des and Tony were developing their shared interest in soil fauna, which was greatly helped by the publication of Ted Eason’s *Centipedes of the British Isles* in 1964 and the availability of Gordon Blower’s *Millipedes* Synopsis published in 1958. Based in Surrey, with its varied geology and landscapes, they found themselves in a remarkably productive area for myriapods. This led to a division of labour in fieldwork and identification, with Tony covering the centipedes and Des the millipedes, with the intention of recording in grid squares rather than the then traditional vice-counties.

Between them Des and Tony built up contacts with a small group of people, mainly teachers and other academics, with an interest in myriapods. In April 1970, Des and Tony joined 10 other myriapodologists at a field meeting in North Devon, at which the British Myriapod Group was formed (Anon, 1972; Barber, 2024). As a consequence the British Myriapod Survey was launched in 1971 by Colin Fairhurst and Tony Barber. In 1974 Des was appointed to the European School in Brussels, which gave him the opportunity to widen his interests in the ecology and distribution of millipedes in continental Europe.

By 1972 the Centre International de Myriapodologie had been established in Paris, France and world congresses were being organised. The 4th International Congress of Myriapodology in 1978, at Gargano, Italy, endorsed a proposal by Colin Fairhurst to set up the European Myriapod Survey, modelled on the British Survey. Eventually the scheme was launched (Kime, 1985) with Des as the only contact point for the project. Although the Survey never had any form of official financial support, by 1985 Des had already started mapping the European distributions of millipedes on paper maps supplied by the European Invertebrate Survey (EIS) via the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood.

Of course, this was at the dawn of computerised information technology in biogeography. On visits to Des and Kathleen’s home in Linkebeek, piles of “work in progress” maps in Des’ study at the top of the house provided endless interest. The amounts of information increased and tantalizing distributions were beginning to emerge. Although, interim maps for 50 species were published (Kime, 1990a), the

difficulties of getting the data from original hand-plotted maps into a form suitable for publication delayed the project, but allowed Des more time to collate records.

Des' work on millipedes was mainly confined to his spare time and school holidays. Nevertheless, he built up active links with museums and university departments, particularly in Belgium, France and Luxembourg. He conducted research in his own right, and also collaborated widely as his publications demonstrate, including original ecological work on millipedes in forests, grasslands and cave systems. With his natural gift for languages, Des had been in communication with almost every active myriapodologist in Europe. Following his retirement in 1993 and subsequently after going to live permanently in central France, these collaborations increased and extended. He also had been awarded an honorary research post at the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique.



Des Kime (far right) during BMIG's field excursion to Hungary in 1994

Left to right: Helen Read, Dick Jones & Tony Barber. Photo by Elisabeth Hornung.

Des worked with Henrik Enghoff on the Fauna Europaea project to collate the European list of Diplopoda (Enghoff & Kime, 2004). This led to their further collaboration on the three volume Atlas of European millipedes (Kime & Enghoff, 2011, 2017, 2021). The Atlas is a magnificent tribute to all concerned, not least to the perseverance of Des Kime in collating records for more than 30 years (and to Kathleen for putting up with it!).

As a result of his work on mapping the distribution of European millipedes Des (and the Survey) soon became involved with the European Invertebrate Survey (EIS). Indeed it was one of the few projects endorsed by EIS that produced tangible results at a European scale. EIS had been set-up in 1969 to promote the mapping of species in Europe. It failed to secure central funding and underwent some changes in direction and later had active involvement with the Council of Europe regarding the Bern Convention (and through that with EU legislation). For several years Des had been Assistant Secretary of EIS, taking an active part in running the organisation and attending its international colloquia and conferences, and co-editing the proceedings of the 1993 Colloquium (Valovirta *et al.*, 1995). EIS eventually ceased to exist in the 2000s.



Des cutting his 80th birthday cake at BMIG's 2012 field meeting at Wentworth Castle [Photo Paul Richards]

Des had been a founder member of the British Myriapod Group in 1970 and was actively involved with its successor, BMIG, participating in the annual field meetings on several occasions. One such meeting was notable because Des chose to spend his 80th birthday at the BMIG Spring Meeting at Wentworth Castle near Barnsley – a true sign of his dedication to myriapodology! Fortunately, this was with the full agreement of his family and BMIG provided birthday cake (see photograph to left) and a (slightly faltering) round of “Happy Birthday”. Unfortunately the venue ran out of beer that evening!

Des was a committed “European” with a remarkable facility for, and interest in, languages. He travelled widely throughout the continent (and associated islands) from his home in Brussels and later, after he and Kathleen had retired, from their home in central France. Some travel was as family holidays but searching for myriapods must obviously have featured, as would his landscape painting. He was particularly interested in painting isolated hill-top villages with their colourful roofs. His extensive, but always lightly worn, knowledge of countries and their landscapes was often invaluable to those travelling with him. Local food was a life-long interest, and food would naturally be accompanied

with local wines and beers as appropriate, or even with carefully chosen bottled water if a thirst had to be quenched. Des had developed a natural eye for a good restaurant and anyone that accompanied him, almost anywhere in Europe, would be sure of finding somewhere worthwhile to enjoy local hospitality. There were occasional boundaries to Des’ gastronomic adventures – in Finland he declined bear steaks (probably on ethical grounds) opting instead for reindeer. Travelling with Des occasionally had its down side if sharing a room was the only option – he snored for Europe!

Paul Harding, Tony Barber & Helen Read

Species named for their association with Des Kime

Origmatogona kimeorum Mauriès 1990

Mauriès, J.-P. (1990). Révision des Origmatogonini. Taxons nouveaux de France et d'Espagne (Diplopoda, Craspedosomida, Chamaesomidae). *Bulletin de la Société d'histoire naturelle de Toulouse*, **126**: 47-60.

Hylebainosoma nontronensis Mauriès & Kime, 1999

Found by Des near his home in Nontron in the Dordogne and now known as *Maurieseuma nontronense* (Mauriès & Kime, 1999).

Mauriès, J.-P. & Kime, R.D. (1999). Description, écologie et chorologie de trois espèces nouvelles de diplopodes (Myriapoda, Diplopoda) des zones périphériques du Massif central et du centre de la France. *Zoosystema*, **21**(2): 367-378.

***Ommatoiulus kimei* Akkari & Enghoff, 2012**

Akkari, N.; Enghoff, H. (2012). Review of the genus *Ommatoiulus* in Andalusia, Spain (Diplopoda: Julida) with description of ten new species and notes on a remarkable gonopod structure, the fovea. *Zootaxa*, **3538**: 1-53. Available online at <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3538.1.1>

***Galicisoma desmondkimei* Mauriès, 2015**

Mauriès, J.-P. (2015). Taxa nouveaux de Diplopedes Craspedosomatides collectés dans le nord-ouest de la Péninsule ibérique par les missions britanniques de 1993 et 2004 (Diplopoda, Craspedosomatida). *Bulletin de la Société d'histoire naturelle de Toulouse*, **150** [2014]: 27-57.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Henrik Enghoff and Steve Gregory for their assistance with preparing this obituary, and to Jon Garvey for his memories of Des as a teacher.

References

- Anon. (1972). British Myriapod Group: inauguration, field meetings and news. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **1**, 1-4.
- Barber, A.D. (2024). Early years of the British Myriapod Group. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **36**: 59-71.
- Kime, R.D. (1962). A study of two bird fleas, *Ceratophyllus gallinae* (Schrank) and *Dasypsyllus gallinulae* (Dale), in the nests of hole-nesting birds. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **98** (1174-1176): 54-59.
- Valovirta, I., Harding, P.T. & Kime, D. 1995. *Threatened species and bioindicators at the pan-European level*. Proceedings of the 9th International Colloquium of the European Invertebrate Survey, Helsinki, September 1993. WWF Finland Report No 7, Helsinki.

R. D. Kime – Myriapod Bibliography (listed chronologically)

- Kime, R.D.** (1968). A rare millipede *Entothalassinum italicum* (Latzel) in Surrey. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **104**, 95.
- Barber, A.D. & **Kime, R.D.** (1971). Chilopoda and Diplopoda from Guernsey and Herm (Channel Islands). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **106**: 223.
- Barber, A.D. & **Kime, R.D.** (1974). Some records of Chilopoda and Diplopoda from South Wales. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **109**:167.
- Kime, R.D.** (1978). The Distribution of Millipedes in the South of England – A Preliminary Survey. In: Kraus, O. (ed.) *Myriapoda – III Internationaler Kongress für Myriapodologie*, Hamburg, 1975. *Abhandlungen und Verhandlungen des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg*, **21/22**: 135-147.
- Kime, R.D.** & Wauthy, G. (1984). Aspects of relationships between millipedes, soil texture and temperature in deciduous forests. *Pedobiologia*, **26**: 387-402.
- Kime, R.D.** (1985). The European Myriapod Survey. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **2**: 39-41.
- Kime, R.D.**, Lewis, J.E.G. & Lewis, S.J. (1987). Centipedes and millipedes collected in Normandy, France. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **4**: 30-35.
- Lewis, J.E.G. & **Kime, R.D.** (1988). Centipedes and millipedes from Finistère, France. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **5**: 6-8.
- Kime, R.D.** (1990a). A Provisional Atlas of European Myriapods, Part 1. *Fauna Europaea Evertebrata*, **1**: 109pp. Luxembourg: European Invertebrate Survey.

- Kime, R.D.** (1990b). Spatio-temporal distribution of European millipedes. In: Minelli, A. (ed.) *Proceedings of the 7th International Congress of Myriapodology*, 367-80. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- Kime, R.D.** (1992). On the abundance of West-European millipedes (Diplopoda). *Proceedings of the 8th International Congress of Myriapodology. Veroffentlichungen der Universitat Innsbruck*, Suppl. **10**: 393-399.
- Kime, R.D.**, Wauthy, G., Delecour, F., & Dufrene, M. (1992). Distribution spatiale et preferences ecologique chez les Diplopedes du sol. *Memoires de la Societe Royale Entomologie de Belgique*, **36**: 661-670.
- Kime R.D.** (1994). Millipedes (Diplopoda) found in and around hedges in Luxembourg. *Bulletin de la Societe Naturelle de Luxembourg*, **95**: 349-357.
- Kime, R.D.** (1995). Records of millipedes in central southern England. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **11**: 37-58.
- Kime, R.D.** (1995). Diplopoda as bioindicator species. In: Valovirta, I., Harding, P.T. & **Kime, R.D.** (eds) *Threatened species and bioindicators at the pan-European level*. Proceedings of the 9th International Colloquium of the European Invertebrate Survey, Helsinki, 1993. WWF Finland Report No 7. Helsinki: WWF Finland.
- Branquarte, E., **Kime, R.D.**, Dufrene, M., Tavernier, J. & Wauthy, G. (1995). Macroarthropod habitat relationships in oak forests in South Belgium. 1. Environments and communities. *Pedobiologia*, **39**: 243-263.
- Kime, R.D.** (1996). Millipedes recorded in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. In: Geoffroy, J.-J., Mauries, J.-P. & Nguyen Duy-Jacquemin, M.,(eds.) *Acta Myriapodologica. Mémoires de la Muséum nationale d'histoire naturelle*, **169**: 257-263.
- Alderweireldt, M. & **Kime, R.D.** (1997). - A collection of Diplopoda (Myriapoda) from Houthulst Forest (western Flanders, Belgium). *Bulletin & Annals de la Societe Royale Entomologie de Belgique*, **133**: 217-220.
- Kime, R.D.** (1997a) Year-round pitfall trapping of millipedes in mainly open grassland in Belgium (Diplopoda). *Entomologica Scandinavica*, Supplement, **51**: 263-268.
- Kime, R.D.** (1997b). Biodiversity and land use with regard to diplopods on some west-European sites. Proceedings of the 10th International EIS Colloquim, 1995, 75-82. Saarbrücken.
- Kime, R.D.** (1999). The continental distribution of British and Irish millipedes, part 1. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group*, **15**: 33-76.
- Mauriès, J.-P. & **Kime, R.D.** (1999). Description, écologie et chorologie de trois espèces nouvelles de diplopedes (Myriapoda, Diplopoda) des zones périphériques du Massif central et du centre de la France. *Zoosystema*, **21**(2): 367-378.
- Kime, R.D.** (2000). Present knowledge of the distribution of European millipedes (Diplopoda). In: Wytwer, J. & Golovatch, S. (eds) *Progress in Studies on Myriapoda and Onychophora. Fragmenta faunistica*, **43** (Suppl.) : 281-294.
- Kime, R.D.** & Golovatch, S.I. (2000). Trends in the ecological strategies and evolution of millipedes (Diplopoda). - *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society London*, **69**: 333-349.
- Kime, R.D.** (2001). The continental distribution of British and Irish millipedes, part 2. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group*, **17**: 7-42.
- Kime, R.D.** (2003). Some unpublished records of centipedes identified by Dr. E. H. Eason. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group*, **19**: 45-50.
- Enghoff, E. & **Kime, R.D.** (2004). Fauna Europaea: Diplopoda. – Fauna Europaea version 1.1, <http://www.faunaeur.org> [version 1.2: 2005]

- Kime, R.D.** (2004). The Belgian millipede fauna (Diplopoda). *Bulletin de l'Institut royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Entomologie*, **74**: 35-68.
- Pontègnie, M., **Kime, R.D.** & Lebrun, P. (2005). Quelques données biogéographiques intéressantes pour la faune belge de Myriapodes. *Bulletin de la Société royale belge d'Entomologie*, **141**: 29-33.
- Korsós, Z., Read, H.J., Barber, A.D., Gregory, S.J., Hornung, E., Jones, R.J., **Kime, R.D.**, Lewis, J.G.E. & Selden, P.A. (2006). Report on a collecting trip of the British Myriapod Group to Hungary in 1994. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group*, **21**: 40-55.
- Kime, R.D.** (2007.) Tausendfüsser und Hundertfüsser - mille-pattes et chilopodes - Myriapoda, Diplopoda et Chilopoda. In: Meyer, M. & Carrières, E. (eds.) Inventaire de la biodiversité dans la forêt "Schnellert" (Commune de Berdorf) Erfassung der Biodiversität im Waldgebiet "Schnellert" (Gemeinde Berdorf). *Ferrantia*, **50**: 235-239
- Golovatch, S.I. & **Kime, R.D.** (2009) Millipede (Diplopoda) distributions: A review. *Soil Organisms*, **81**(3) : 565-597.
- Enghoff, H. & **Kime, R.D.** (2009) Fauna Europaea: Diplopoda. *Fauna Europaea* version 2.0. Available from <http://www.faunaeur.org> Cited by Kime & Enghoff (2017). Now at <http://fauna-eu.org/>
- Gregory, S.J., Hornung, E., Korsós, Z., Barber, A.D., Jones, R.E., **Kime, R.D.**, Lewis, J.G.E. & Read, H. J. (2009): Woodlice (Isopoda: Oniscidea) and the centipede *Scutigera coleoptrata* (Chilopoda) collected from Hungary by the British Myriapod Group in 1994: Notes and observations. *Folia entomologica Hungarica*, **70**: 43-61.
- Kime, R.D.** & Dethier, M. (2010) Les Myriapodes des milieu souterrains de Belgique. *Bulletin des Chercheurs de la Wallonie, hors-séries* **3**: 67-78.
- Kime, R.D.** & Iorio, E. (2010). Centipedes and millipedes of Burgundy. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group*, **24**: 16-31.
- Kime, R.D.** & Enghoff, H. (2011). *Atlas of European Millipedes (Class Diplopoda), Volume 1, Orders Polyxenida, Glomerida, Platydesmida, Siphonocryptida, Polyzoniida, Callipodida, Polydesmida*. Fauna Europaea Invertebrata, 3. Sofia-Moscow: Pensoft and Leiden: European Invertebrate Survey. 282pp.
- Telfer, M.G., Gregory, S.J., **Kime, R.D.**, Owen, C. & Spelda, J. (2015). *Ceratosphys amoena* Ribaut 1920 and *Hylebainosoma nontronensis* Mauriès & Kime 1999 new to Britain (Diplopoda: Chordeumatida). *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group*, **28**: 15-30.
- Kime, R.D.** & Enghoff, H. (2017) Atlas of European millipedes 2: Order Julida (Class Diplopoda). *European Journal of Taxonomy*, **346**: 1-299.
- Kime, R.D.** & Enghoff, H. (2021): Atlas of European millipedes 3: Order Chordeumatida (Class Diplopoda). *European Journal of Taxonomy*, **769**(1): 1-244.