

**A DICHOTOMOUS KEY TO THE GEOPHILOMORPH CENTIPEDES OF BRITAIN.**

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This key includes all the geophilomorphs currently known from the British Isles. Immature specimens may be difficult in some cases. Some species of *Geophilus* have 0, 1 or 2 coxal pores in the early stages thus an additional option has been inserted at 12 to cover this. In the case of *Brachygeophilus* and the Schendylidae there may be only one such pore on each side.

- 1a Coxal pores distributed over the entire surface or at least the ventral surface of the coxae of the last pair of legs.....2
- 1b Coxal pores concentrated along the edge of the adjacent metasternite or opening into pits adjacent to the metasternite.....8
  
- 2a Coxal pores very numerous and distributed over both the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the coxae.....3
- 2b Coxal pores less numerous and distributed over the ventral surface of the coxae only.....6
  
- 3a Head broader than long. With more than 73 pairs of legs.....4
- 3b Head longer than broad. with fewer than 51 pairs of legs.....5
  
- 4a With 91 or more pairs of legs. Large transverse, oval fossae between sternites 40 and 49. Rare species from a single site in Cornwall.....*Nesoporogaster brevior*
- 4b With 73 to 85 pairs of legs. Lacking fossae between sternites 40 and 49. Common in south and south-west, less so in north.....*Haplophilus subterraneus*
  
- 5a With terminal claws on last pair of legs. Forcipules with smooth concavity and with a prominent basal node. Rare, usually coastal.....*Pachymerium ferrugineum*
- 5b Lacking terminal claws on last pair of legs. Forcipules with a crenulate concavity and lacking a basal node. Rare, a hot house species.....*Dicellophilus carniolensis*
  
- 6a The pleurites of the last trunk segment distinct from the adjacent pretergite. Littoral species.....*Strigamia maritima*
- 6b The pleurites of the last trunk segment fused together with the adjacent pretergite.....7
  
- 7a With 49 to 53 pairs of legs. Sternites with a distinct median, longitudinal cleft.....*Strigamia crassipes*
- 7b With 37 to 41 pairs of legs. Sternites lacking a media cleft.....*Strigamia acuminata*

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8b	Head longer than broad. The forcipular tergite broader posteriorly than anteriorly, with almost straight lateral borders.....	10
9a	With 61 to 75 pairs of legs. Large stout species with elliptical pore groups on the sternites. Dorsal surface of trunk usually greenish-grey. Southern species, coastal or synanthropic inland.....	<i>Henia vesuviana</i>
9b	With 53 to 57 pairs of legs. Small, slender species with lanceolate pore groups on the sternites. Southern species usually synanthropic.....	<i>Henia brevis</i>
10a	With 63 to 79 pairs of legs. Sternal pore groups distinct on anterior segments. Coxal pores in rosettes and opening into pits adjacent to the metasternite (requires clearing to see this detail).....	<i>Clinopodes linearis</i>
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13b	Basal node of forcipules absent or rudimentary. Littoral species.....	<i>Hydroschendyla submarina</i>
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15b	Forcipules with a smooth concavity. Known specimens with 39 pairs of legs. Rare.....	<i>Brachyschendyla dentata</i>
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