

# BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

Newsletter No. 8 May 1988

Editor: Dick Jones

## MILLIPEDE RECORDING SCHEME

A MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING SCHEME ORGANISER.....

D. T. Richardson

I would like to thank all who have supported me during my four years in office.

Those of you who were at Plymouth in April 1982 will remember quite vividly the dismay which was expressed when we realised that morale, confidence and interest in the Scheme were at a very, very low level. It was under these circumstances that I accepted, in the absence of someone of less advanced years, the challenge to re-establish confidence and interest in the Scheme. There is little doubt from the activity which has been evident over the last few years that confidence and interest have been restored and we are, for the time being, riding on the crest of a wave. This being so I think it advisable that I stand down before finding that I am unable to give the Scheme the attention it deserves thereby unwittingly starting us on another downward slope.

I lay no claim to having achieved this myself, for the upsurge of interest can be attributed to a number of events, the more significant of which being: the introduction of the newsletter which has kept us in touch and reminded us that the Scheme is alive and well; the revival of the Bulletin which provides an outlet for papers and results of your work; the annual meeting enabling us to work together, socialise, exchange views and really get to know each other and the considerable number of new recorders who have joined our ranks. These exercises involve far more individuals than just myself.

That you have contributed as many records in four years as were received in the previous thirteen shows the dedication and enthusiasm you have generated and it is a credit to you all. The Preliminary Atlas represents the efforts you have put in over the years and is offered as a token of our appreciation for all you have done. Hopefully its publication will stimulate even more activity. There is, as you will realise as you thumb through its pages, a great deal which can still be done.

There is perhaps no one better for me to hand over to than Dick Jones. I wish him the very best of luck and trust that you will all give him your undivided support.

.....AND ANOTHER FROM THE NEW

Dick Jones

I would like to thank Doug on your behalf for all the work that he has put into the Scheme over the last few years. The vast amount of mail that has accumulated on my desk during the last fortnight while I have been on holiday shows me how hard he has been working on our behalf. The Preliminary Atlas is a very fitting achievement to mark his retirement as organiser, although I know that we will be hearing a lot more from Doug, hopefully on the distribution of Yorkshire Myriapods for a start. One consolation for him I am sure is that he will no longer have to struggle to read my handwriting on record cards.

A copy of the Preliminary Atlas is now in your hands and I hope that you will peruse it thoroughly and, after the initial glow of satisfaction, begin to feel, as I did, slightly guilty when you realise that some of your records are missing or that *Cylindroiulus punctatus* is still not recorded from the square just down the road. As the title says it is a preliminary atlas and we still have a considerable way to go. Use it to find the blank areas near you, plan your holidays with it, and dig out all those records that somehow were never put onto cards. (Are you listening Adrian?).

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**CENTIPEDE RECORDING SCHEME** Aberystwyth turned up trumps for Andy Keay during the Welsh weekend. He discovered a specimen of *Lithobius tenebrosus* on the cliffs at Constitution Hill. It has been confirmed by Tony Barber and Ted Eason and confirms Turk's 1945 Cornish record. It apparently looks very much like *L. melanops* so double check all your Welsh specimens. I haven't had time to look through mine yet. Send any suspect specimens to Tony who also asks you to look out for the form of *Lithobius microps* that has no spines on its legs.

**ATLASES** Everyone should receive free copies of both with this newsletter. Further copies are available at £7.00 (Centipedes) & £3.00 (Millipedes) inc. postage. Cheques, made out to I.T.E., or cash to Publication Sales, I.T.E. Merlewood Research Stn., Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6JU

**BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP** Volume 5 is now on sale, price £3.00 from Tony Barber, Rathgar, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, Devon. PL21 0BD, U.K.

Contents include a new Geophilomorph centipede for Britain, myriapods from Brittany and S.W. Wales, ecology and distribution of centipedes, the life history of *Chordeuma proximum*, Symphyla identification and Miscellanea.

#### **BUPA or NHS ??**

Steve Hopkin

One of the benefits (the only one?) of marking student practical write-ups of the classes that I run on the "Ecology of Soil Animals" in Reading is to see the infinite variety of ways in which the undergraduates spell the scientific names of the invertebrates we study. I have not bothered to report these to BMG members in the past but this year has produced a real gem. In an account of defensive secretions by centipedes one student wrote "...the most remarkable phenomenon is the secretion of defensive glues by the centipede *Hernia vesuvius*. I suppose the glue glands are similar to miniature volcanoes but the centipede seems to survive the experience without rupturing itself."

**BISG/BMG MEETING 1988** This newsletter was rushed out to accompany the atlases so an account of this meeting will follow in the next edition.

**BISG/BMG MEETING 1989** Paul Harding informs me that John Bratton has tentatively booked the North Devon venue for the weekend after Easter (30 March to 2 April 1989). Details will be in the next newsletter.

**NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER** Hopefully this will come out in mid-summer, material for inclusion should reach R.E.J. at The Lynn Museum, Old Market St., King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1NL by 31 July. Material should preferably be typed but floppy discs using Locoscript 1 or 2 for Amstrad 8000 series PCs are especially acceptable as they save me extra typing.