

BRITISH MYRIAPOD

GROUP, NEWSLETTER No. 12

March 1990 Editor: Dick Jones

SUFFOLK MEETING 1990

REJ

This is a poorly recorded county both for centipedes and for millipedes. There are few records but they are mostly old and often not to be trusted. For example, what do you make of the record of *Lithobius variegatus* that sits alone surrounded by nothing and well away from the eastern edge of its distribution. It is probably an error but we can't be sure until we've looked.

At least there are plenty of habitats to look through. It is a rural county with lots of woodlands to hunt about in. The breckland to the west will probably turn up something and to the east is the sea. *Pachymerium ferrugineum* has recently been found on the coast and may turn up elsewhere. The *Brachychaetomas* may prove interesting, will *bradae* or *melanops* or both be found here? In fact anything could happen and it probably will.

MORGAN'S MISCELLANY.

I. K. Morgan.

For me, one of the highlights of the April 1989 BMG/BISG meeting at Halsannery in N. Devon, were the living specimens of woodlice, including the gorgeous purple *Eluma purpurescens* brought in by a member whose name I unfortunately forget.

Similarly it would be nice if members could bring in specimens to the 1990 Suffolk meeting, for I am sure that there are several species of myriapod or woodlouse which many members would wish to see. Why not bring some uncommon molluscs or other invertebrates too?

Personally, with all invertebrates I find it far better if live rather than dead specimens are seen. One can then appreciate the jizz of the beast, i.e. the cumulative impression of physical appearance and behaviour. Hopefully I can bring *Thalassiosobates littoralis*, *Brachychaetuma melanops*, *Nopoiulus kochi* and *Henia brevis*, alive, for members to see, assuming that these will remain as easy to find this April as they were in 1989. Species that I would like to see would be the millipedes *Chordeuma sylvestre*, *Cylindroiulus nitidus*, *C. parisiorum*, *C. truncorum* and *Leptoiulus kervillei*, the woodlice *Porcellio laevis*, *P. dilatatus* and perhaps some of the small jobs or some of the rarer centipedes.

I'll try to bring some young instars of the rare harvestman *Sabacon viscayanum*, currently known only from a few south Wales sites. Incidentally, myriapodologists working in the south west of England should look out for this distinctive harvestman with its characteristic 'boxing glove' pedipalps. It likes damp situations in woodland and is adult from the late summer to early winter, though small early instars can be found from January onwards.

NAME THAT MYRIAPOD - IN ENGLISH. IT'S OFFICIAL

"Littoralis"

One of the standing jokes about myriapods is that their names are much longer than the animals themselves. As a joke it has them (who?) rolling in the aisles, or so I am told.

To make myriapods more accessible to the general public the government has decided that new, more easily understood names are essential (Seymour 1989). This radical move on the part of the government could be seen as a covert attempt to increase interest in the group, but the reasoning behind the move seems as obscure as much other government thinking on the sciences.

The official names are as follows:

<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	snake millipede
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	spotted snake millipede
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	snake millipede
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	flat (backed) millipede
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>	palm millipede
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	lesser glasshouse millipede
<i>C. londonensis</i>	black millipede
<i>C. punctatus</i>	woodland floor millipede
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	pill millipede
<i>Oxidus gracilis</i>	glasshouse millipede
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	flat (backed) millipede
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	snake millipede, black millipede, white-legged black millipede

Geophilidae	wire centipedes, garden centipedes
Lithobiidae	garden centipedes

<i>Scutigereilla immaculata</i>	glasshouse symphylid, "centipede", glasshouse symphylan
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Now that you all know the official names of our myriapods you will be expected to use them in all official documents. However, there is talk of a dissident group near Huntingdon which is defying government policy and using the old latin versions.

Reference

Seymour, R. 1989. Invertebrates of economic importance in Britain - common and scientific names. London: HMSO

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	16	G. B. Corbet
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>	71	D. Boyce & A. P. Fowles
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>	29	C. Johnson
<i>caeruleocinctus</i>	46	A. P. Fowles
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	71	D. Boyce & A. P. Fowles
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>	31	A. G. Irwin
<i>Stygioglomeris crinita</i>	13	G. B. Corbet

Please update lists given in PRELIMINARY ATLAS 1988

REJ

OXIDUS GRACILIS, NEW TO DYFED

I. K. Morgan

Readers may be interested in the following note I received from Dr. M.P. Ireland who reports *Oxidus gracilis* from heated greenhouses at Aberystwyth 22/596821, (NCR for Cardigan, VC46).

"I am enclosing some preserved specimens of what I believe to be *O. gracilis*. I was originally informed about these creatures by the Head Gardener at University College of Wales. Apparently they cut down a banana plant in the tropical greenhouse (70°C+) and about a month later when the sap had stopped flowing and the stump started to go black the animals appeared. According to the Head Gardener they appeared almost overnight and resulted in a seething mass of millipedes. I did not see them originally but it is claimed that there must have been 3000-4000. I saw them in November and even then there were 100s."

MAPS, AN EXPERIMENT

REJ

On the other side of this sheet is an experiment. You will see four maps showing the current distribution of four millipedes, or not, depending on whether or not they have come out. The first is *Leptoiulus belgicus* which shows that you can't make generalisations about its S.E. distribution or the fact that it does not occur in Ireland. The next is *Boreoiulus tenuis*, a millipede that is probably overlooked and, if Norfolk is any guide, will be found in large numbers in Suffolk. The latter two are *Brachychaeteumas*. You can see from them that *bradae* has a northern distribution but does it come south? If the dot on the south coast is correct then why aren't there more? The *melanops* is definitely a southern species but what is its northernmost limit? Also what does it get up to in Ireland? Perhaps in time we shall find out.

WANTED

Andy Keay is still requesting immature stages of geophilomorphs. Any specimens to be sent to the address at the end of this bulletin or handed to Andy at the Field Weekend.

ADDRESSES OF CONTRIBUTORS

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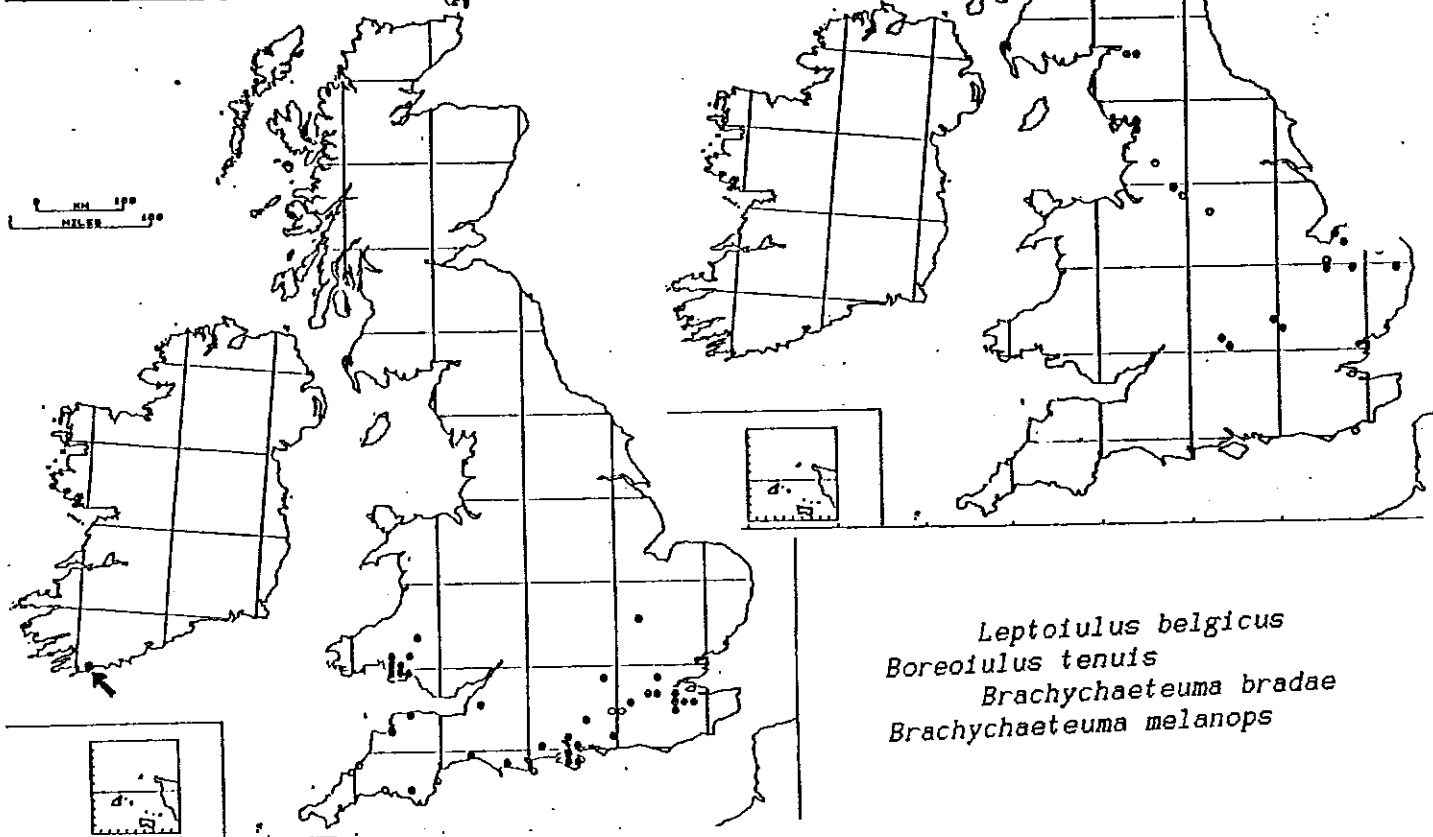
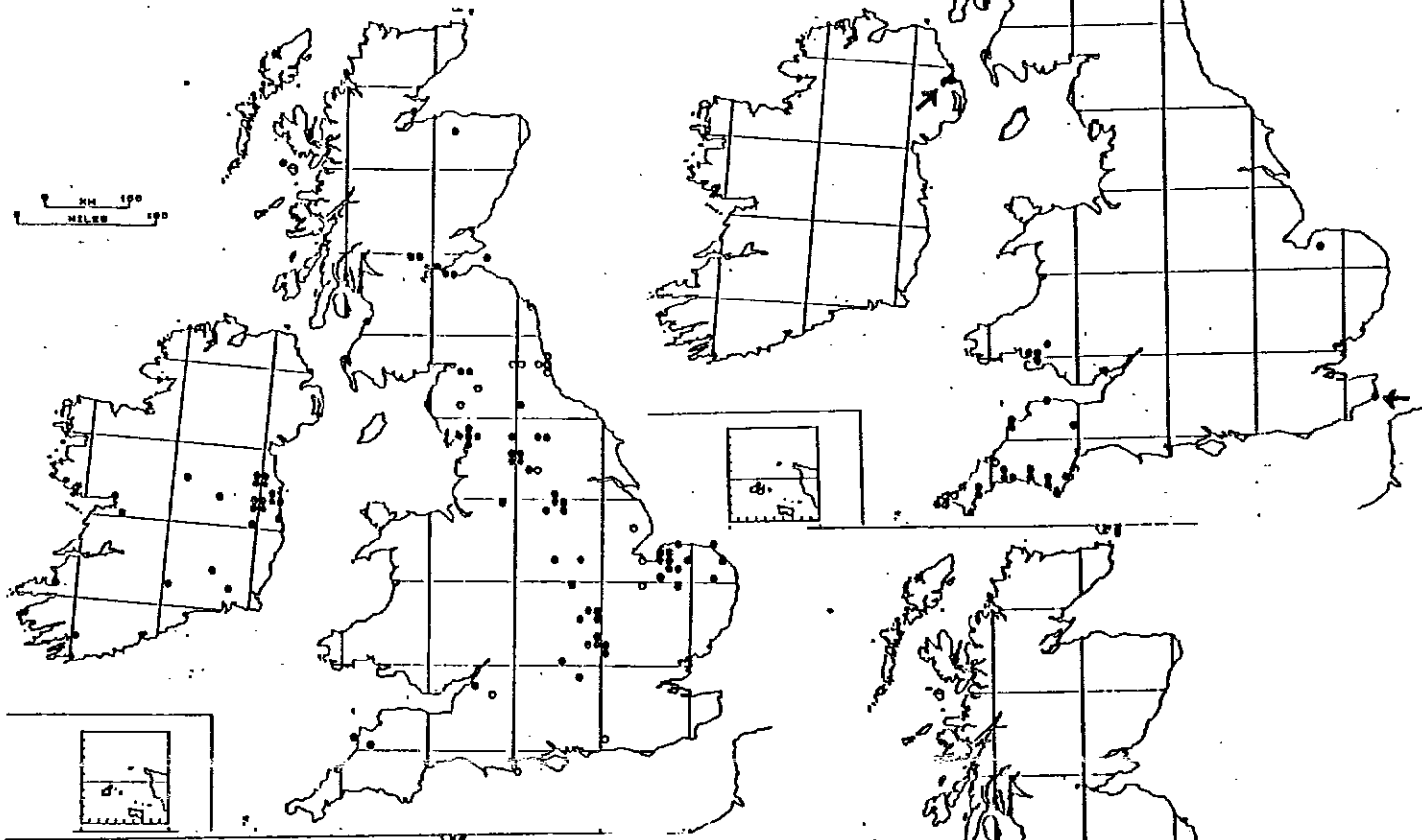
NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER

Material for inclusion should reach R.E.J. by the end of August. Copy should be typed preferably, but floppy discs using Locoscript 1 or 2 for Amstrad 8000 series PCWs are especially acceptable as they save me extra typing.

MAPS, AN EXPERIMENT

100
MILES

100
MILES



Leptoiulus belgicus
Boreoiulus tenuis
Brachychaeteuma bradae
Brachychaeteuma melanops