

# BRITISH MYRIAPOD

## GROUP, NEWSLETTER No. 14

March 1991

Editor: Dick Jones

### SLIM PICKINGS

Not much has come in lately. Steve Gregory has been doing good things in the Oxford area where amongst other species he has found *Brachychaeteuma melanops*. This is the first time that this species has been found in an area where *B. bradeae* is known to occur, in fact the previous two records from adjacent squares were of that species. This will enable someone to see what, if anything, keeps them apart. Does *B. bradeae* really reach the south coast as the square in East Sussex signifies, or is it an error? There is also, according to the species list *B. bradeae* present in East Somerset, but there is no card to support it. Only time will tell but in the meantime there is Dorset to look forward to and maybe find a *Brachychaeteuma*. I predicted one last year and of course none were found.

Other finders can be seen in the vice-county list. G. B. Corbet has the furthest north *Cylindroiulus londinensis* so far. He also submitted the first records of *Haplopodoiulus spathifer* to the scheme. (Are you listening Rundle?) This species is found living in the open and appears to be naturalised. So far it has been found at Kew and Wakehurst Place.

Paul Richards contributed, amongst other things, the piece on the dubious antics of certain myriapodologists (see below).

### VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	23	S. Gregory
<i>Brachychaeteuma melanops</i>	23	S. Gregory
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	50	C. Felton
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	51	C. Felton
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>	53	
<i>Cylindroiulus londinensis</i>	98	G. B. Corbet
<i>Haplopodoiulus spathifer</i>	13	G. B. Corbet
	51	G. B. Corbet
<i>Julus scandinavus</i>	101	G. B. Corbet
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	89	J. P. Richards
<i>Melogona gallica</i>	22	C. Hambler
<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>	88	J. P. Richards
<i>Polydesmus inconstans</i>	23	S. Gregory

Remember to add *H. spathifer* to the British List.  
Please update lists given in PRELIMINARY ATLAS 1988.

## SWANAGE IN DORSET

This has been arranged by Jon Delf as you should by now know. The Isle of Purbeck is predominantly limestone and shales so it should suit millipedes and centipedes down to the ground, (no pun intended). I have not been there for a long time but I remember finding *Lithobius macilentus*, (*L. aulacopus* in those days) in one of my old stamping grounds. Apart from that visit I have not been there since school days when I mapped the whole Isle as part of a land use survey. Along the coast there are numerous valleys which should hold something and inland is the chalk ridge which is a continuation, albeit broken, of the Isle of Wight. I predict *Henia vesuviana*, *Geophilus pusillifrater* and *Thalassiosobates littoralis* on the coast. Andy Keay sticks his neck out and, based on the similarities with the Isle of Wight, predicts *Nothogeophilus turki*, the rash fellow.

Inland there is a lot to look at. To the east there are the heaths and woods on the soils of the Hampshire Basin. To the north there is the chalk stretching into Wiltshire and to the west there are limestones and shales such as the Blue Lias at Lyme Regis. The Dorset coast is a geologists' wonderland. The Isle of Portland is certainly worth a visit with its abandoned quarries to look in and there is always the Chesil Beach. I think that we may find *Leptoiulus belgicus*, *L. kervillei* and there may be even *Enantiulus armatus*. After last year I will not stick my neck out too far but there may be something like *Stosatea italica*, or how about *Polydesmus testaceus*. *Stygioglomeris crinita* should also be found.

Do not forget to collect a few specimens en route to the Field Study Centre. You will be passing through virgin territory which ever way you come.

## SMELLIPEDES

The colloquial name of "Iodine Millipede" for *Tachypodoiulus niger* has long been a useful aid when teaching field identification. "Sniff it, m'dear" is rather easier than "You'll note the hyaline tip of the telsonic projection has an upward inclination!"

In the past it had not really crossed my mind to snort every millipede I found, but more recently I have quite taken to the habit. The hand lens hung around my neck has yet to be replaced by a small silver spoon however...

These investigations have revealed that *Cylindroiulus vulnerarius* likewise has the same iodine odour when disturbed. To date I have found no significant odour in any other species. The julids seem to be the most rewarding to sniff. I have only been able to test *Ommatoiulus sabulosus*, *Julus scandinavicus*, *Ophiulus pilosus*, *Cylindroiulus punctatus*, *C. caeruleocinctus* & *C. britannicus*. I should be grateful to hear from anyone who has encountered this behaviour in other species or even noted regional variations!

The smell from both species is very definitely of iodine though I have heard it described as "bleach". Both have to be handled and "molested" for the full effect. So prior to plunging in alcohol remember, "sniff before snuffing"!

**WARNING:** Millipede inhalation can be dangerous, sniff gently and in small quantities.

Paul Richards

CHANNEL ISLANDS: MYRIAPODS

The latest edition of the Bulletin reports on *Scutigera* on Jersey but in total relatively little has been published on Channel Island myriapods. Various reports were published in the Bulletin of the Société Jersaise at different times and Des Kime collected a few specimens on Guernsey and Herm in 1969 (Entomologists Monthly Magazine, 106, 223, 1971). These reports, together with some recent material sent to us by Chris Felton and collected at Noirmont, Jersey, give us a very imperfect picture of the myriapod fauna of the islands. If anyone holidaying or visiting the Channel Islands for any other reason could bring us specimens they would be much appreciated.

Jersey	Guernsey	Herm
<b>Millipedes:</b>		
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	<i>C. punctatus</i>	<i>C. punctatus</i>
<i>C. latestriatus</i>	<i>L. belgicus</i>	
<i>Leptoiulus belgicus</i>	<i>P. fuscus</i>	
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	<i>Polydesmus sp.</i>	
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>		
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>		
<b>Centipedes:</b>		
<i>Haplophilus subterraneus</i>	<i>H. subterraneus</i>	<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>
<i>Hydroschendyla submarina</i>	<i>Geophilus osquidatum</i>	<i>G. carpophagus</i>
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	<i>L. variegatus</i>
<i>L. pilicornis</i>	<i>L. variegatus</i>	
<i>L. calcaratus</i>	<i>L. microps</i>	
<i>Cryptops sp.</i>		
<i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>		

There may possibly be one or two missed but this does not affect the overall picture of a poorly known myriapod fauna. ADB

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DORSET CENTIPEDES

Since the BMG/BISG meeting this year will be in Dorset it will be an opportunity to update the list of species for the county. Very few collections have been made in Dorset and our present knowledge is based on old records, holidays and occasional visits. The heathlands seem to show a fauna similar to those further west e.g. *Geophilus carpophagus*, *Lithobius variegatus* & *L. borealis* but we have little systematic data.

The present species list is based on Atlas records.

*Haplophilus subterraneus*, *Schendyla nemorensis*, (*S. zonalis*; Bagnall, 1935), *Henia vesuviana*, *Strigamia crassipes*, *S. maritima*, *Geophilus carpophagus*, *G. osquidatum*, *Necrophloeophagus flavus*, *Brachygeophilus truncorum*, *Cryptops hortensis*, *Lithobius variegatus*, *L. forficatus*, *L. melanops*, *L. borealis*, *L. macilentus*, *L. pilicornis*, *L. crassipes* and *L. microps*.

ADB

## FAUNA EUROPAEA INVERTEBRATA

The first volume has at last been published and it is *A Provisional Atlas of European Myriapods*, part 1, by R.D.Kime. I have seen it and it is very interesting indeed. Quite a lot of species are widespread, though they are not so well mapped as in Britain, but several species have odd distributions. *Ophiulus pilosus* for example, does it really avoid France? *Thalassisobates littoralis*, does it really occur only around Britain and the Mediterranean or has it not been found on the Atlantic coast of France because nobody has looked in the right place? There is even a map of *Trachysphaera lobata* with the one dot in the south of England and the rest in the Pyrenees; does it occur in between or is the British site an introduction? We shall have to start looking elsewhere, both along the south coast and when we go abroad, to find out. Obviously there are only the maps that have enough dots on them to make a point and it is nice to have a new angle to continental holidays. Des Kime is congratulated on producing a stimulating volume.

As there will be problems in getting the book, (its price is F.lux. 600.-) Paul Harding is hoping to get a number for sale at the Dorset weekend. If you want a copy and you will *not* be at the weekend then drop him a line at Monks Wood and ask him to reserve one. I think that F.lux. 600.- is about £10 but I may be wrong.

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### BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

Volume 7, November 1990 is still on sale from Tony Barber, price £4.50. If you have not yet bought it then you do not know what you are missing, Yorkshire Millipedes by D.T.Richardson, the true identity of *Geophilus insculptus* by E.H.Eason, the generic composition of the Cyndroiulini by H.J.Read and many, many others.

Tony also says that he has numbers 2-5 still in stock and he has photocopies available of the first volume which was separated from subsequent editions by several years. Please contact ADB for details, address below.

### BULLETIN Volume 8.

Papers, short or long, relating to any aspect of British myriapods or to adjacent areas of mainland Europe, are needed for the next issue of the Bulletin due out later this year. If they are not forthcoming we will not be able to go to print!

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### NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER

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