

BRITISH MYRIAPOD

GROUP. NEWSLETTER No. 17

Sept. 1992

Editor: Dick Jones

GOVERNOR WHO?

The Forest of Dean was notable for its rain; the first day left most of us drowned but the second day was better. The first day we just dripped and cursed and eventually retired to the pub for an hour or so. Still, some people actually found something, *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* and *Chordeuma proximum* being amongst the cards for the day, found by Richardson & Blower, as well as *Archiboreoiulus palidus* by the same pair. Also found were *Macrosternodesmus palicola* by Paul Lee and *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* by Keith Alexander. In the evening Tony Barber found *Brachychaetuma melanops* at the Cannop cross roads.

The next day was better, Messrs Barber, Richards, Lee and Jones went to Hereford via Westbury on Severn where they got *B. melanops* and *Anelasmacephalus cambridgei*. The latter is a harvestman. Continuing on we went to the Lugg Meadows where we saw Fritillaries but not much else and then to Weir House Gardens which produced a few things. Helen Read collected *Stosatea italica* which was rather good and both Paul Harding and Steve Gregory had more *C. proximum*.

The next day we set off homewards but Keith Alexander still managed to find *C. rawlinsii* on his way home. A wet but interesting weekend and Keith deserves thanks for setting it up.

Next year will be in Sussex, Jon Daws is organising it so we shall see where he decides on quite soon.

On the recording front, Steve Gregory has been to Essex where there is plenty still to find including *Melogona scutellare*. He has covered the whole of Oxfordshire for the common species, now he can concentrate on the more elusive ones! Helen has responded to my moaning at last and has supplied a number of cards scattered through the south of England, including Gloucestershire.

J. Daws visited me recently with a load of pitfall contents from Leicestershire and the result of a couple of weeks in Eire. Amongst the tubes was a little centipede that turned out to be a *Geophilus fucorum*, collected not far from the spot where it was found in 1982. I showed my the garden, mainly to find an *Unciger foetidus* which, as many of you know, is common there. We turned over almost everything and could not find any, as despite the recent rain the soil was dry and they presumably had burrowed deep.

Having been to France for a fortnight in August and found only two geophilo-morphs I can see why the French claim everything is found in caves. It gets so

dry in the soil and litter but even so there were worms and symphilids and even lithobiids and millipedes, just no geophilomorps.

It shows that one visit to a site out of season may turn up nothing but that does not mean that there is nothing there at other times of the year. In the end I found Jon an *Unciger*, just as he was leaving, but it was more by luck than judgement.

Gordon Corbet has moved to Fife and is the furthest north of any active recorder. Charles Rawcliffe used to have that distinction but now I expect great things will come from the other side of the Firth of Forth. Will he find *Glomeris marginata* or not I wonder?

The other day the phone rang and the person on the end said he knew me, claimed to be a Mr, no sorry, Governor Keay and said I was a whiskey drinking buddy from wayback. I vaguely remember someone of that name, perhaps someone out there remembers him. He writes below.

I have tubes from Charles Rawcliffe and Keith Alexander, amongst others, on my desk but they will have to wait until I return from abroad in the middle of October to be processed.

R. E. J.

LITTLEDEAN MEETING - April 1992, Centipedes.

Although a substantial number of species had been recorded from Gloucestershire in the past, notably by Ted Eason, there appears to have been little if any systematic work in the Forest of Dean. There have also been various records from Gwent, Hereford etc, at different times.

Records have been received from 15 10km squares from a variety of locations mostly in vice-counties 34 (W. Glos.) and 36 (Hereford). A total of 20 centipede species were recorded with 85 10km/species records.

Haplophilus subterraneus proved to be a very common geophilomorph in woodland and other sites and was reported from 10 10km squares. Other common geophilomorphs were *Schendyla nemorensis* and *Brachygeophilus truncorum* with *Geophilus carpophagus* relatively less common, along with *G. osquidatum*, *Necrophloeophagus flavus* and *G. insculptus*. The occurrence of *G. osquidatum* is a reflection of the westerly distribution of that species.

Strigamia maritima was found on the estuary of the Severn whilst *S. crassipes* was found on two occasions. *S. accuminata* which almost certainly occurs here was not found this time. Both *Henia* species (*H. vesuviana* found at Lydney Harbour by Paul Richards and *H. brevis* at Weir House, Herefordshire by Dick Jones) were recorded once.

Brian Cave, who joined us during our meeting, gave us a record of the so called giant *G. carpophagus* from Longhope (61) which had been found 20ft up in a *Cupressus* tree.

All three scolopendromorphs turned up at different places, *Cryptops anomalans* at Littledean (Dick Jones), *C. parisi* also at Littledean (Tony Barber) and Westbury Court (Dick Jones, Tony Barber & Paul Richards) and *C. hortensis* from a variety of sites.

MILLIPEDES & CENTIPEDES FOUND AT THE LITTLEDEAN MEETING

S0/32 20 43 44 50 51 52 53 54 60 61 70 71 72 73

<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>										■				
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>			■					■	■	■		■		
<i>Brachychaetuma melanops</i>										■		■		
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>				■	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	■									■				
<i>Craspedosoma rawlinsii</i>										■				
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>		■									■			
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>														■
<i>C. latestriatus</i>		■												
<i>C. punctatus</i>		■	■		■		■		■	■		■	■	
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>		■	■	■	■		■		■	■		■	■	■
<i>Julus scandinavius</i>					■					■				
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>			■							■				
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>										■				
<i>Nanogona polydesmiodes</i>										■	■			
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>	■						■				■			■
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>			■							■	■			
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>		■	■					■	■	■		■	■	
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>		■	■		■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■
<i>P. denticulatus</i>														■
<i>P. gallicus</i>		■	■					■	■			■		
<i>P. inconstans</i>							■							■
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	■	■		■			■		■	■				
<i>Stosatea italica</i>										■				
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■

S0/32 20 34 43 44 50 51 52 53 54 60 61 70 71 72 73

<i>Haplophilus subterraneus</i>	■		■	■		■		■		■	■	■	■	■
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	■		■						■	■	■		■	■
<i>Henia vesuviana</i>										■				
<i>H. brevis</i>				■										
<i>Strigamia crassipes</i>										■	■			
<i>S. maritima</i>										■	■			
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>										■	■		■	■
<i>G. osquidatum</i>				■						■	■	■		
<i>G. insculptus</i>			■	■										
<i>Necrophloeophagus flavus</i>			■							■	■			
<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	■					■				■	■		■	
<i>Cryptops anomalans</i>											■			
<i>C. hortensis</i>									■	■	■	■	■	
<i>C. parisi</i>											■		■	
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>	■					■		■		■	■	■	■	■
<i>L. forficatus</i>		■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<i>L. melanops</i>				■					■		■			
<i>L. calcaratus</i>														■
<i>L. crassipes</i>											■			
<i>L. microps</i>	■			■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Only six lithobiomorphs were found. *Lithobius forficatus* was ubiquitous and *L. variegatus* was widespread in woodland etc. *L. melanops* was reported from 3 10 km squares including the glasshouse at Littledean. The common small lithobiid found almost everywhere seemed to be *L. microps* whilst *L. crassipes* was found only once, (7 specimens from deciduous woodland near Speech House, Tony Barber). This latter species is not common in S. W. England and it is apparently absent from areas where it might be expected. Eason (1953, *Proceedings of the Cotswold Naturalists Field Club*), reports it from few sites in the Bourton area of E. Glos.

The only other *Lithobius* found was *L. calcaratus* collected by Richardson and Blower from Newent Woods. Possibly more extensive collecting, and better weather would yield other lithobiomorphs such as *L. borealis* and *Lamyctes fulvicornis*. *L. curtipes* and *L. macilentus* are not prominent in S. W. England although occurring in parts of Wales, and most other lithobiids are more or less restricted in their distribution.

This year's meeting has made a valuable contribution to filling gaps in our distribution knowledge, and the tendency to collect in non-rural sites and in gardens has given a wide range of species. As indicated a few other species might be expected and visitors to the W. Glos. - Gwent area are to be encouraged to make further collections.

A. D. B.

The tables are compiled from the cards of K. Alexander, P. Harding, G. Blower, D. Richardson, P. Richards, P. Lee, S. Gregory, H. Read, J. Daws, A. D. Barber and R. E. Jones.

THE TOP SIXTEEN.

Although the list of millipede recorders now stands at 426 there are many who are not active or just send in a record now and again. Even the "big boys" often rest on their laurels and one or two of them have not sent in a record for a year or two. I thought that, just to get you going, I would print the first sixteen recorders which also coincides with the 500 records cut off point.

D. T. Richardson 2214	J. G. Blower 2063	A. J. Rundle 1941
W. A. Ely 1702	P. Lee 1373	K. Alexander 1363
A. D. Barber 1353	R. E. Jones 1244	I. K. Morgan 835
C. P. Rawcliffe 819	P. T. Harding 813	S. J. Gregory 806
D. Doogue 717	C. P. Fairhurst 700	A. N. Keay 640
R. D. Kime 542		

Of course there might be a different list if the computer was to print out the numbers but these are the ones that I have on my word processor and that I try to keep up to date. If you are not on the list yet then get recording, there are quite a few just below the 500 mark.

R. E. J.

A NEW MILLIPEDE FOR BRITAIN.

In early 1992 Steve Gregory sent me a millipede which he could not identify. It had come from Slapton Lea and looked a bit like a young *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* but it was not hairy enough. This set me thinking, and a search through my tubes produced another, collected in 1983 at the same place. Steve collected his three along with *Chordeuma proximum* and I had collected mine from the cliffs. I had assumed mine to be a young *C. rawlinsii*, not being familiar with them at the time, and it had even got into the Provisional Atlas as such. Now I could see the difference and what is more it had gonopods!

I spent a day with sharpening stone and fine forceps dissecting it, not an easy thing to do when you have only one good hand. The result was a good dissection and a clear view of the gonopods but what was it? My copies of Brolemann and Demange were poured over but there was nothing that fitted it. I told Steve that I could not identify it and we should get outside help.

Jean-Paul Mauriès was contacted and sent our specimens. He reports that it is a new species, probably *Anthogona* sp. and suggests that we call it *Anthogona britannica*. We will keep you posted as to when and where it will be published.
R. E. J.

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	34	D. T. Richardson
<i>Bianiulus guttulatus</i>	H9	J. Daws
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	12	R. E. Jones
	22	S. J. Gregory
<i>Brachychaeteuma melanops</i>	34	R. E. Jones, J. P. Richards
<i>B. bradeae</i>	63	J. P. Richards
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	24	H. Read 1989
<i>Craspedosoma rawlinsii</i>	29	Procter D. A. & Foster A.
	34	H. Read 1990
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	20	S. J. Gregory
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>	25	E. Parsons
	29	Procter D. A. & Foster A.
<i>C. latestriatus</i>	22	S. J. Gregory
	36	P. Lee
<i>C. nitidus</i>	24	S. J. Gregory
<i>C. parisiorum</i>	24	H. Read
<i>Julus scandinavus</i>	19	S. J. Gregory
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	34	P. Lee
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>	19	S. J. Gregory
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	11	R. S. George
	34	H. Read 1985
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>	24	S. J. Gregory
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	H16	J. Daws
<i>P. denticulatus</i>	19	S. J. Gregory
<i>P. gallicus</i>	19	S. J. Gregory
	20	S. J. Gregory
<i>Stosatea italica</i>	34	H. Read

Please update lists given in PRELIMINARY ATLAS 1988.

".....in an English country garden".

Having recently moved into a house in the village of Woodmanstern, Surrey I thought I had better find out what species of myriapod were lurking in the garden. I was mildly disappointed with the range of chilopoda with only seven species present:

- Henia vesuviana* - one specimen so far.
- Haplophilus subterraneus* - common in the soil.
- Necrophleophagus flavus* - as above.
- Lithobius microps* - again, very common.
- L. melanops* - relatively rare (two specimens in two months).
- Cryptops hortensis* - relatively rare with three specimens.
- C. anomalans* - commonest species, very large and easily capable of a painful bite (personal experience).

The millipedes have been somewhat more interesting:

- Archiboreoiulus pallidus* - two specimens from soil.
- Blaniulus guttulatus* - common everywhere.
- Cylindroiulus britannicus* - one specimen from soil.
- C. caeruleocinctus* - common in the soil.
- C. vulnerarius* - this rare species is the commonest one in the soil and can be found whenever I can be goaded into digging the garden. (Anyone who wants a specimen can bring their own spade, I've got to get the garden dug over somehow).
- Glomeris marginata* - not as common as I would have expected but it is fairly dry here.
- Macrosterodesmus palicola* - two specimens from soil.
- Nanogona polydesmoides* - one specimen from under a rock.
- Ophiodesmus albonanus* - three specimens from soil.
- Polydesmus angustus* - four specimens under stones.
- P. gallicus* - one specimen from under rock.

A. N. Keay.

BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

Volume 8 is now with us. If you have not got one yet or if you lack any of the previous volumes write to Tony Barber. While we are on the subject there is a misprint on page 7, for *Lithobius forficatus* read *Lithobius borealis*.

ADDRESSES OF CONTRIBUTORS

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NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER

Material for inclusion in the next Newsletter should reach R. E. Jones by the end of February. 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.