

BRITISH MYRIAPOD

GROUP, NEWSLETTER No. 20

March 1994

Editor: Dick Jones

WE'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

Well most of us will, the rest will be in Scotland afore us. The area around Meigle is virtually unknown when it comes to millipedes and centipedes. It will probably have fewer species than in the south but what they will be is anybody's guess. Gordon Corbet has shown that you can't be sure it isn't there just because it has not been found yet. We might even find a *Glomeris marginata*.

Looking at the list of vice-county records you can hardly fail to notice a new name has arrived on the scene from the woodlice camp. For years we have wanted someone new in Ireland who could really find things. Now we have Martin Cawley who, I'm sure, won't mind me singing his praises. I don't think that anyone has had his name in the list so many times in one go. *Boreoiulus tenuis*, *Brachychaetuma bagnalli*, *Leptoiulus belgicus*, *Melogona scutellare* and *Macrosternodesmus palicola*, some of them being second or third records, have come very quickly. His centipedes are good as well. I expect to hear that he has a new species for Ireland soon.

In October a weekend trip was made to Lincolnshire by Jon Daws, Steve Gregory, Andy Keay and myself, although several others had to call off due to flu. We covered about 25 sites and collected a number of invertebrates, but nothing out of the ordinary. The best things were probably *Stygioglomeris crinita* and *Allajulus nitidus*. A huge bloated centipede which threw us for a day or two turned out to be just a very large *Geophilus oligopus*, ooops my fault.

GUERNSEY, ANOTHER ISLAND ON MY LIST.

R. E. J.

Last Christmas the family decided to go to Guernsey to get away from it all for a few days, and who was I to resist. Andy Keay had been there in the summer and had found very few centipedes and millipedes and I thought it would be interesting to see if the cooler, wet weather had brought things to the surface. The northern half produced nothing according to him and so I wanted to prove him wrong and find something.

When I got there I found that Andy was correct, there did not appear to be much about at all. I got permission to turn over the hotel's rockery and despite it being good habitat I was disappointed at the result. *Blaniulus guttulatus* and *Polydesmus angustus* and that was that. It was only marginally better on the woodlouse front.

The following day we went to the south coast where there was a bit of woodland and, with everyone given a tube to put things in, (well, there is no point in arguing when I decide to collect) we searched hard and found very little except for a lot of hoppers *Talitroides dorienii*, some terrestrial Nemertines and a few millipedes. As we drove back to the hotel for another five course meal I began to form a theory in my mind. An island, furthest of its group from the mainland of France, not much about, it could only mean one thing, my island introduction theory was going well.

Next day was started in the north of the island, about as far north as one can get at L'Ancrese Bay. Here I started to demolish the cliffs while the rest of our party watched the birds and played a complicated game with stones and circles in the sand. I found about twenty *Schendyla nemorensis* and one tiny white woodlouse and Barney came up with a *Geophilus carpophagus* the only one of the trip. The afternoon was spent visiting friends and walking in the Talbot Valley. I had just started to look at the litter fauna when somebody said "Have you seen any treecreepers, you know that they are short-toed on Guernsey?" I hurriedly grabbed a few millipedes that were amongst the litter and set off after the group. We did not see any treecreepers, short-toed or long!

After another couple of days hunting both treecreepers and creepy crawlies we were back in England. The theory was going well, the map on the boat showed that Guernsey was separated by deep water while Jersey was almost attached to France, this would be good material to add to my main, great theory, fanfare!!!

How wrong can you be! Always check your facts before you go shouting out the final result. When I came to check through the things I had collected I found there was a lot more there than I realised. I have listed the centipedes and millipedes I found along with Andy's * and with those few already found ** (Newsletter No. 14). It makes quite a substantial list.

** *Polyxenus lagurus*
Chordeuma proximum
Melogona gallica
Proteroiulus fuscus
Blaniulus guttulatus
Cylindroiulus punctatus
C. latestriatus
Leptoiulus belgicus
Brachyiulus pusillus
Polydesmus angustus
P. gallicus
Brachydesmus superus

* *Haplophilus subterraneus*
Schendyla nemorensis
** *Strigamia maritima*
Geophilus carpophagus
** *G. osquidatum*
G. pusillifrater
G. electricus
Necrophloeophagus flavus
Brachygeophilus truncorum
Cryptops hortensis
Lithobius variegatus
** *L. forficatus*
L. melanops
** *L. pilicornis*
L. muticus
L. microps

B. M. G. BULLETIN No. 10 should be out by Easter. Contents include articles on Spain, Tasmania and Suffolk. We are going international this time.

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	53	S. Gregory
	94	J. Daws
	H26 H28 H29 H34	M. Cawley
<i>Brachychaeteuma bagnalli</i>	H26 H28	M. Cawley
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	77	G. B. Corbet
	H17 H34	M. Cawley
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>	H34	M. Cawley
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>	85	G. B. Corbet
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	54	S. Gregory
	77	G. B. Corbet
	H25 H34	M. Cawley
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>	53	S. Gregory
<i>C. latestriatus</i>	H29 H34	M. Cawley
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>	23	S. Gregory
	54	A. N. Keay
<i>C. punctatus</i>	H34	M. Cawley
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>	H28	M. Cawley
<i>Leptoiulus belgicus</i>	H28	M. Cawley
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	19 53	S. Gregory
	95	J. Daws
	H17 H25 H26 H28 H29 H34	M. Cawley
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>	22	S. Gregory
	85	G. B. Corbet
	H26 H29 H34	M. Cawley
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	95	J. Daws
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>	H28	M. Cawley
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	H34	M. Cawley
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	H17 H34	M. Cawley
<i>P. denticulatus</i>	84	B. Saville
	H29	M. Cawley
<i>P. inconstans</i>	106	G. B. Corbet
	H29	M. Cawley
<i>Stygioglomeris crinita</i>	53 54	S. Gregory
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	H34	M. Cawley

Please update the lists given in the Bulletin Vol 9, 1993

REJ

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO STOCK UP ON THOSE OLD PAPERS YOU COULD NOT FIND

The other day I received a letter from Dr F. A. Turk saying that he has decided to sell his library of papers and books dealing with myriapods. He thought it would be a good idea if he gave the Myriapod Group first refusal of the items at about two-thirds of the dealers' costs. It includes both centipedes and millipedes from most parts of the world (except for Australia!) and includes about 800 separates in a job lot. There are some interesting papers on North American myriapods by Chamberlin, some Attems books and papers, Verhoeff etc. etc. etc. There is even a C. L. Koch, 1836 Die Myriapoden in two volumes but it is a bit much for my pocket at the moment. If any one is interested in seeing a copy of the list then write or phone Andy Keay who will provide one.

Keith Alexander also has Ein Beitrag zur mitteleuropaischen Diplopoden-Fauna, by Verhoeff from Ent Zeitschrift XXXVI 1896, it belonged to Brade-Birks. If anyone is interested contact him direct.

Stosatea italica REDISCOVERED IN NORTH ESSEX

S. Gregory

Having spent the New Year weekend with relatives at Colchester my girlfriend and I arrived at the bus station in the town centre ready to catch the coach back to Oxford. Since there were almost 20 minutes to the departure time I took one last opportunity to sample the local multipedes. Leaving the other half in charge of the luggage I wandered into the nearby St James churchyard (62/002253, VC 19).

Much of the graveyard looked rather well manicured and sterile (unfortunately many people still equate tidiness with care) and a quick inspection under a few loose stones revealed nothing more exciting than the ubiquitous *Lithobius forficatus* and *L. microps*. Towards the back of the churchyard it looked more promising with a series of old gravestones loosely stacked at 45 degrees against a brick wall (no doubt removed to make manicuring easier!). Pulling the top stones away from the underlying ones initially revealed a few dark, almost shiny polydesmids, unmistakably *Stosatea italica*.

As more gravestones were tilted forwards hundreds more *Stosatea* were seen in the thin layer of soil which had accumulated between them. Several pale immatures were also seen and were initially mistaken for *Brachydesmus*. Under the bottommost gravestone a single *Cryptops parisi* was intercepted and captured as it beat a hasty retreat for cover. A quick look on the underside of this last stone also revealed a specimen of *Schendyla nemorensis* but lack of time prevented a thorough search for the more elusive small geophilids typically found in such locations.

Stosatea was first collected in North Essex at Saffron Walden by Tony Barber in the 1960s but has not been recorded from the county since. Recently it has shown to be widespread in East Kent (VC 15) but with very few isolated records elsewhere in Britain (see vice county distribution. Bulletin vol. 9). Essex is still poorly recorded and many areas remain untouched by myriapodologists (though the Colchester area is getting better!). *Stosatea* must surely be present in other churchyards in the county and who knows what other goodies await discovery (can I hear the Ed. shouting *Unciger?*). Maybe next year!

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NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER Material for inclusion should reach R.E.J. by September 15th.