

British Myriapod and Isopod Group

21st AGM

To be held on:

Saturday 10th April 2021 at 2pm via Zoom

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 20th AGM held on 5th December 2020
3. Matters Arising
4. Secretary's Report Helen Read
5. Treasurer's Report Paul Harding
6. Recording Scheme Reports
 - a. Centipedes Tony Barber
 - b. Millipedes
 - c. Woodlice Steve Gregory
 - d. Intertidal Isopods Warren Maguire
7. Library and collections update Steve Gregory / Dafydd Lewis
8. Events and Exhibitions update Dafydd Lewis
9. Social Media update Warren Maguire
10. Field meeting update Kevin Clements / Paul Harding
11. Changes to BMIG mission statement and by-laws Duncan Sivell
12. Changes to BMIG constitution Duncan Sivell
13. Election of Officers
14. Date of next committee meeting
15. Any other business

4. Secretary's Report.

There is not a great deal to report since the last AGM.

We currently have 439 members so the numbers continue to rise slowly. MailChimp seems to be working ok as a method of keeping in touch with members. Although we did not organise a field meeting this spring the virtual seminar will hopefully be an interesting change and is a way of everyone keeping in touch. I'm pleased that Warren Maguire has taken on the role of newsletter editor and his first edition has been produced this spring. The annual Bulletin has also recently been posted on the website and is a bumper edition this year.

5. Treasurer's report for 2020

Our current balance in the TSB current account and as petty cash is nearly £7000.

BMIG has received four payments from Publishers' Licencing Services (PLS), in February, March, September and October 2020, amounting to £580.05.

There is some uncertainty about payment for the BMIG domain name although payment for 2020 has reportedly been covered by Salticus Web-Hosting since Craig Slawson died in March 2020, although BMIG's cheque to Slawson was not presented for payment. Subsequently Steve Gregory has been negotiating the transfer of our domain name to another hosting company.

In early March, when the prospect of a Covid-19 epidemic looked certain but UK Government was still hawking, I took the decision to cancel our booking with Bridgwater and Taunton College for the 2020 field meeting. This was partly because we were expecting Liz Hornung to attend from Hungary (as our guest) and Willson Gaul to attend from Ireland (who would have been in receipt of a BMIG Bursary), both of whom needed to cancel their international flights. Because of the developing Covid-19 situation, I was able to get the College to reduce our cancellation charge to the amount of our initial deposit (£163.50), which had been paid in August 2019.

Following the cancellation of the 2020 annual field meeting due to Covid-19, all those that had booked and paid a deposit have been offered a refund. Five requested a refund and cheques for these have been presented for payment. However seven of those that had booked instructed that BMIG should keep the deposit against an expectation that the meeting would be organised for a future date. The total of the deposits currently being held is £350, which is carried over into 2021 in our current balance.

Paul Harding, BMIG Treasurer, 10 March 2021

6a. Centipede recording scheme

Since the autumn 2020 report the number of records received directly has obviously been limited in the present pandemic but numbers of requests for identification and/or information continue to come in and, no doubt, there should also be records coming in via iRecord. The present situation with recording is somewhat in limbo in relation to habitat data because of the unsatisfactory nature of this in relation to the iRecord habitat categories. Hopefully this will be resolved satisfactorily and refreshed recording schemes for our groups will be able to emerge.

Amongst records coming in over the last year or two have been specimens from London parks collected on a regular basis which, not surprisingly, give a very different perspective on our chilopod fauna compared with that of rural areas. This, together with older surveys and other records, hopefully, will lead to an appropriate paper. There have, over the last no great surprises in our knowledge of centipede species or distribution this last year.

The question of identification / verification of specimens from photographs comes up regularly. Some centipedes, e.g. *Lithobius variegatus* or (usually) *Henia vesuviana* are “easy” at least to the experienced eye, others are more difficult but photographs of the right parts and in the case of geophilomorphs the leg numbers may help but there will always be cases where detailed examination of the actual specimen is needed. I wonder if BMIG might consider whether or not to have some guidelines on this that could be on the website.

There is one name change. Fortunately, Steve Gregory spotted an ICZN notice regarding the status of *Geophilus alpinus* as we were beginning to get used to calling it. So *Geophilus proximus* of older British workers, having been *Geophilus insculptus* Attems, 1895 for many years, then *G. alpinus* Meinert, 1870 is now to be known as *Geophilus impressus* C.L.Koch, 1847. Fortunately, Steve’s sharp eye meant that the name could be at all appropriate points in the atlas draft before it went further.

Paul Richards’ well attended and interesting webinar on centipedes (which I “sat in” on) was an interesting way of running an introduction to the group; such on-line sessions could be an excellent way of moving forward with appropriate follow up.

Inevitably the atlas has taken up much time and sometimes trying to clarify what seemed a simple issue has raised others which prove time-consuming. The work of Kath Turvey, data processor at BRC Wallingford, has been fantastic, not only in sorting out and processing habitat data but in trying to make sense of my wording, clarifying/correcting my English, picking up on typos, pointing out inconsistencies and apparent errors or contradictions and she has been, it seems to me, incredibly patient throughout. The manuscript has now just been sent to the publisher.

Tony Barber, Centipede Recording Scheme.

6b. Millipede recording scheme

In the nine years since its discovery in Britain (2011) *Anamastigona pulchella* has been recorded from just seven localities. This winter alone I'm aware of three additional sites; in Staffordshire (David Coles), Essex (Ed Hardy) and Cornwall (Mark Telfer). On current evidence it is very widely and thinly scattered across Britain from Cornwall to Essex and north to Glasgow. However, it is likely that some of the voids in its current known distribution will soon be filled.

Another British site for *Ophiulus germanicus* has been found in south Essex by Ed Hardy; the fourth British locality, but also widely recorded in Northern Ireland and the Dublin area. This Essex site is proving very interesting, with *Anamastigona pulchella* also recorded (both *A. pulchella* and *O. germanicus* also reported from its Oxford site and in Northern Ireland), and outdoor records of *Oxidus gracilis*.

In September Steve Gregory collected an as-yet unidentified Polyzoniida millipede from an ornamental garden in Cornwall. Specimens have been examined by Thomas Wesener and Leif Moritz (in Germany), who undertook DNA 'bar-coding' and took SEM images, and have attributed it to family Siphonotidae. They have found a similar species (based on the DNA 'barcode' and male gonopod morphology) in samples collected from islands off the North Island of New Zealand, but no species name as yet.

At the same ornamental garden Steve also collected some possible sub-adult male *Polydesmus asthenestatus* (specimens examined by Roy Anderson). In December, Lee Knight also collected some *P. asthenestatus* (including an adult male) from a limestone cave near Plymouth, Devon. Then, this March some images of specimens from Lanarkshire, that may also be *P. asthenestatus*, were posted on the BMIG Facebook group. Subject to confirmation, these could be the first three British records (but another species also well-known in Northern Ireland).

Steve Gregory

6c. BMIG Woodlouse and Waterlouse Recording Scheme

Nothing to report since the last scheme update in December!

Steve Gregory

7. Librarian and collections report

We have not as yet been able to visit Dinton Pastures to check on our collection and library holdings owing to the current pandemic.

As the 'shielding' period is now at an end Dafydd plans to arrange to visit within April or May, as discussed with Jon Cole.

8. Events and exhibitions manager's report

We haven't held or attended any physical events for the past year, until now (10 April).

We haven't progressed purchasing new banners, leaflets etc during the past year, for the above reason.

We have promoted this AGM on social media