

REPORT ON THE 1999 NORTHUMBERLAND MEETING: CENTIPEDES

A.D. Barber

Centipede Recording Scheme

Some 12 species of chilopod were recorded from a variety of rural, urban and coastal sites by Paul Lee, Gordon Corbet, Steve Gregory, John Harper, Helen Read and Tony Barber. Records are from 19 10km National Grid squares from the 100km squares 36 (NT), 45 (NZ) and 46(NU) all but three of which included sites within the Watsonian vice-county 68 (Cheviot). Exceptions noted * were from S.Northumberland (vc 67) or Berwickshire (vc 81) (Table 1).

Early work on myriapods in the Northumberland-Durham region was by Richard Bagnall (Bagnall, 1913, 1935) but this was essentially from the more southern part of that area. Barber (1981, 1984) reviewed Bagnall's records and reported on Chilopoda from Northumberland, Durham and Borders and from the Cheviot specifically. He collected some 14 species from vice-county 68 which included all those found in 1999 with the exception of *Haplophilus subterraneus* and *Cryptops hortensis*. The latter are distinctly synanthropic in northern England and the sites from which these were collected in 1999 (Ford Castle, both species and Alnwick, *H.subterraneus*) fit into this category. Most of the records of *Lithobius melanops* were also from synanthropic sites where forms such as *L.crassipes* are less likely to be seen or from the coast, a typical habitat for the species.

Lithobius forficatus, not unexpectedly is seen to be widespread and is recorded from a diversity of sites. *Lithobius variegatus* was not, however, recorded at all, even in habitats where it might be expected in more western areas of Britain. Barber (1984) recorded it only from Upper Coquet Dale and Ramsey's Burn and he commented on its patchy distribution in the Cheviot area.

Lithobius crassipes and *Brachygeophilus truncorum* were commonly found along with scattered records of *Geophilus insculptus*, *Necrophloeophagus flavus* and *Geophilus carpophagus*. The two forms of the latter were not distinguished by recorders other than one from Harthope Valley with 49 leg pairs (G.B. Corbet, pers. comm.). They would all, however, from the locations given, be of the "small" form with 47-51 leg pairs.

Of the *Lithobius* species not recorded at the meeting but on the earlier list, all *L. macilentus* locations were from lowland sites on the NW of the Cheviot Hills, there were two records of *L. calcaratus* from grass-moor and three of *L. borealis*. With additional collecting these species might have been found in 1999. *Lamyctes fulvicornis*, also listed, is distinctly a late summer/autumn form.

Of some interest are species not found in earlier collections or in the present one such as *Strigamia crassipes* with at least one record from the Lothians and *Geophilus electricus* which has been found in Peebles although it is, in fact, typically a synanthrope.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all those who submitted records from the field meeting.

REFERENCES

Bagnall, R.S. (1913) The myriapods of the Derwent Valley. *Trans. Vale Derwent Nat. Fld. Club* (NS) **1**(2):116-128

Bagnall, R.S. (1935) Notes on British chilopods (centipedes) 1. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* **(10)** **15**:473-479

Barber, A.D. (1981) Chilopoda from Northumberland, Durham and the Borders Region. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **116**:161-166

Barber, A.D. (1984) Chilopoda and Diplopoda from the Cheviot area. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **120**:87-92

