

Editorial

Looking back (via the BMIG website) at old volumes of the BMIG Bulletin and its predecessors, the BMG Bulletin (1972 – 2000) and Isopoda (1987 – 1990), a period of more than fifty years, makes one realise how much has been achieved, how our myriapod and isopod fauna has increased in terms of species and how much has been written about it.

This year a milestone was reached with the publication of the long-awaited Atlas of the Centipedes of Britain and Ireland written by one of our editors Tony Barber. This significant piece of work is the culmination of many years of dedication and perseverance by Tony and will surely be an important reference for many years to come.

Publications such as the centipede atlas lay “marks in the sand” regarding the status of our fauna at a particular point in time, a useful setting down of the situation up until this point and the building of blocks for the future. However, as this volume of the bulletin shows, the situation is ever-changing. We include here articles giving details of two new species for our fauna, one millipede and one woodlouse. The newly discovered *Polydesmus taranus* is described and details given on how to distinguish it from the very similar *Polydesmus asthenestatus*. The find of the new woodlouse to Britain *Hyloniscus riparius* is also documented. Every year it seems there are new species being added to the British list.

In addition, we continue to gain information about the ecology of our species, and this is represented here by an article on aspects of the ecology of the millipede *Trachysphaera lobata*, one of our rarest and most threatened species. The Bulletin has consistently included information about structural abnormalities, particularly in centipedes and here we have an illustration of an abnormal, presumably damaged, female *Lithobius forficatus* from London.

Our present-day knowledge continues to build on the foundation of others, and Britain has a legacy developed from a number of prominent scientists working on our groups. One whose name is regularly associated with some of our more common species of myriapod is the naturalist W.E. Leach (1790-1836), who first formally separated the myriapods from the arachnids and crustaceans as a group of their own. We include here an article outlining some details of his life, together with some corrections to species and higher taxa names and their dates. A short consequential note on millipede names follows this. Sadly, in 2022 we lost the prominent Norwegian myriapodologist Bjarne Meidell (1943-1922) and we are also saddened to note the death of Jean-Paul Mauriès of Paris, one of the founders of the international myriapod group C.I.M. (Centre International de Myriapodologie). We include an obituary of Bjarne and we hope an obituary of Jean-Paul will follow in due course; the influence of both extended to our shores.

Regularly we look outside the boundaries of our countries to compare and contrast with the faunas elsewhere and include faunistic accounts where they may be of interest to British readers. David Cabanillas of Spain reports on centipedes collected from various locations in Europe and colleagues from Belarus & Poland present some myriapod records from the latter country. Back on our own shores the Bulletin is the vehicle for presenting information about species found during our annual field meetings and this year’s reports are of two pre-covid ones in 2018 (Longtown; South Wales & Herefordshire and 2019 (Newton Stewart, SW Scotland). Hopefully, those for 2022 (Preston Montford) and 2023 (Cannington) will be ready for publication rather more quickly.