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INTERIM REPORT ON THE MILLIPEDE RECORDING SCHEME

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INTRODUCTION

The millipede and centipede surveys were instituted at the first meeting of the British Myriapod Group, and as a result of approaches from the Isopod Group. The record cards were first presented at the International Congress of Myriapodology in Manchester in 1970. The design owed a great deal to the involvement of the woodlice enthusiasts and the Biological Records Centre of ITE at Monks Wood. The inclusion of a habitat classification was a departure from the norm of recording schemes, but deemed to be a natural evolution from pure mapping, to include valuable information concerning the collection site.

The basis of the scheme was Gordon Blower's collation of the VC records as presented in the first edition of the British Myriapod Bulletin. The habitat scheme received its first database from not only the efforts of the collators, but also the records of Des Kime and Ted Eason. Since the inception, over 10,000 records have been received for Great Britain and the habitat information has proved most useful. This ecological information was always seen to be a supplement to population ecology research and intensive site surveys. It proved to be far more accurate than expected and results from a variety of collectors has closely matched 'in depth' research, and given much information on the species composition of sub-optimum habitats.

Some 200 recorders have been involved, and the most active of these are acknowledged in this report by name. To the rest go our thanks for their past efforts and encouragement in this novel scheme in the future. The efficiency of the millipede co-ordinator has not been particularly good and contributors have shown a great deal of patience with my procrastination. Since 1979, this situation has got worse, despite the increased pressure produced by Paul Harding now in charge of the Biological Records Centre. In this time I have been

developing a research team of substantial proportions, dealing with international environmental problems unconnected with millipedes. Clearly, the time had come to either close the scheme, which would be a shame, or hand it over to someone more willing and able to become involved in the necessary administration. Such a person has always been present in Ireland, namely Declan Doogue, and Douglas Richardson has now agreed to continue the good work in Great Britain. I hope to still be involved in the analysis of the information.

It must be remembered that this habitat scheme was the first of its type, and has taken biological recording from simple mapping into sound ecological research to which many people can make a contribution and multiple records from the same area are valuable.

DATA SET

The data presented here are those which are presently held on recording cards and therefore on computer files. More information has been received in the form of letters and notebooks and include rare or new species supplied for checking. These are not, however, included at this time.

Other forms of printout are available, for example, listings by vice-county, recorder, species and habitat. Anyone desiring such information should contact Colin Fairhurst.

Any general or specific comments would be welcome.

DATA PRESENTATION

A species may have a number of records which is dependent on a combination of the following:

a) they occur in a habitat which is easily searched,
b) they are more easily seen, (and active)
c) they are more easily identified,
and d) they are more common.

Some habitats are more popular or easily searched e.g. under bark or stones in woodland, whilst few records are received for, say, arable soil. Similarly certain times of the year are more popular, as well as particular areas of the country.

Vice-county maps are the traditional means of expressing geographical distribution. However, this parameter is often difficult to map because of the administrative boundaries. Also Local Authority changes often lead to recent Ordnance Survey maps not having the Vice County boundaries. In addition, extension of the survey into Europe means that the 50km square is the standard. With the present number of records, 10 km square maps still show the distribution of collector activity more than species dispersion. Indeed, one may question whether it is necessary to prove that, for example, Cylindroiulus punctatus is present in each 10 km square when we know that it can be found throughout the majority of the country.

COLLABORATION

Any scheme is dependent on the collectors and gratitude is due to all. In particular, the following persons should be mentioned by name:

More than 1,000 records:	D.T. Richardson
More than 500 records:	W.A. Ely
	A.D. Barber
	D. Doogue
	C.P. Fairhurst
	P.T. Harding
	R.D. Kime
More than 250 records:	E.H. Eason
	A.N. Keay
	C.J. Smith
More than 150 records:	J. Chalfield
	M.H. Dolling
	A. Alexander

The printing of the cards, key punching of the information onto the computer has mainly been carried out by the staff of the Biological Records Centre.

Sorting and checking and transcription of literature and notebook records has been carried out by J. Khanna and recently Margaret Curtis, who has also been involved in the computing. Other persons who have helped in this respect are M. Armitage, K. Teare, R.D. Baker, P.M. Atkins and P. Milligan.

Throughout the operation, the constructive pressure of Paul Harding deserves special mention.

SPECIES WITH MORE THAN 20 RECORDS

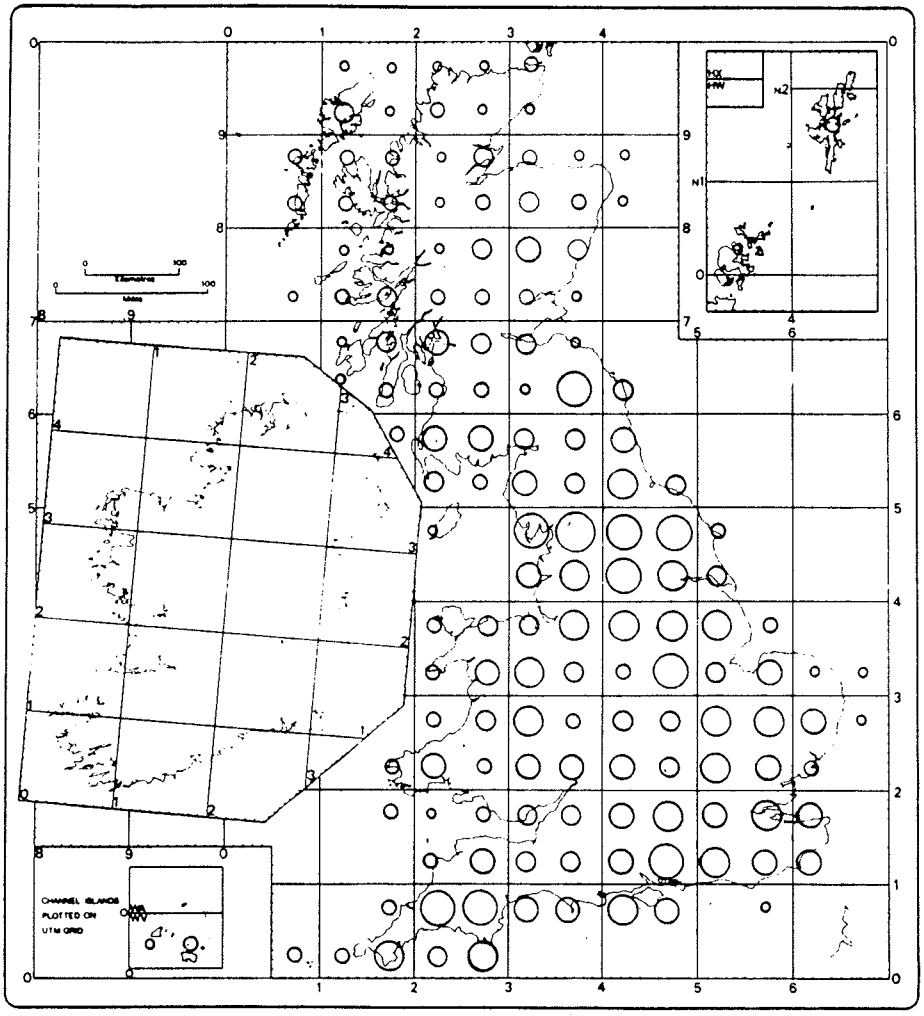
CODE	SPECIES	RECORDS
1006	Cylindroiulus punctatus	1529
3201	Tachypodoiulus niger	1489
1401	Glomeris marginata	1005
2701	Polydesmus angustus	989
2801	Polymicrodon polydesmoides	585
3101	Proteroiulus fuscus	585
2501	Ophyiulus pilosus	473
2301	Ommatoiulus sabulosus	464
1601	Lulus scandinavius	429
501	Brachydesmus superus	316
1002	Cylindroiulus latestriatus	262
201	Blaniulus guttulatus	220
1502	Isobates varicornis	162
2704	Polydesmus gallicus	138
2703	Polydesmus denticulatus	131
1003/2	Cylindroiulus londinensis var caeruleocinctus	113
2702	Polydesmus coriaceus	112
1001	Cylindroiulus britannicus	93
601	Brachyiulus pusillus	90
2901	Polyxenus lagurus	73
2102	Microchordeuma scutellare	61
101	Archeboreoiulus pallidus	42
301	Boreoiulus tenuis	41
1702	Leptoiulus kervellei	35
2401	Ophiodesmus albonanus	34
1004	Cylindroiulus nitidus	30
801	Chordeuma proximum	27
1901	Macrosternodesmus palicola	26
2101	Microchordeuma gallicum	26

Table 1: Species with more than 20 records, names as on record card

MONTH	RECORDS
January/December	180
February	166
March	409
April	1431
May	1450
June	1019
July	687
August	668
September	506
October	640
November	233

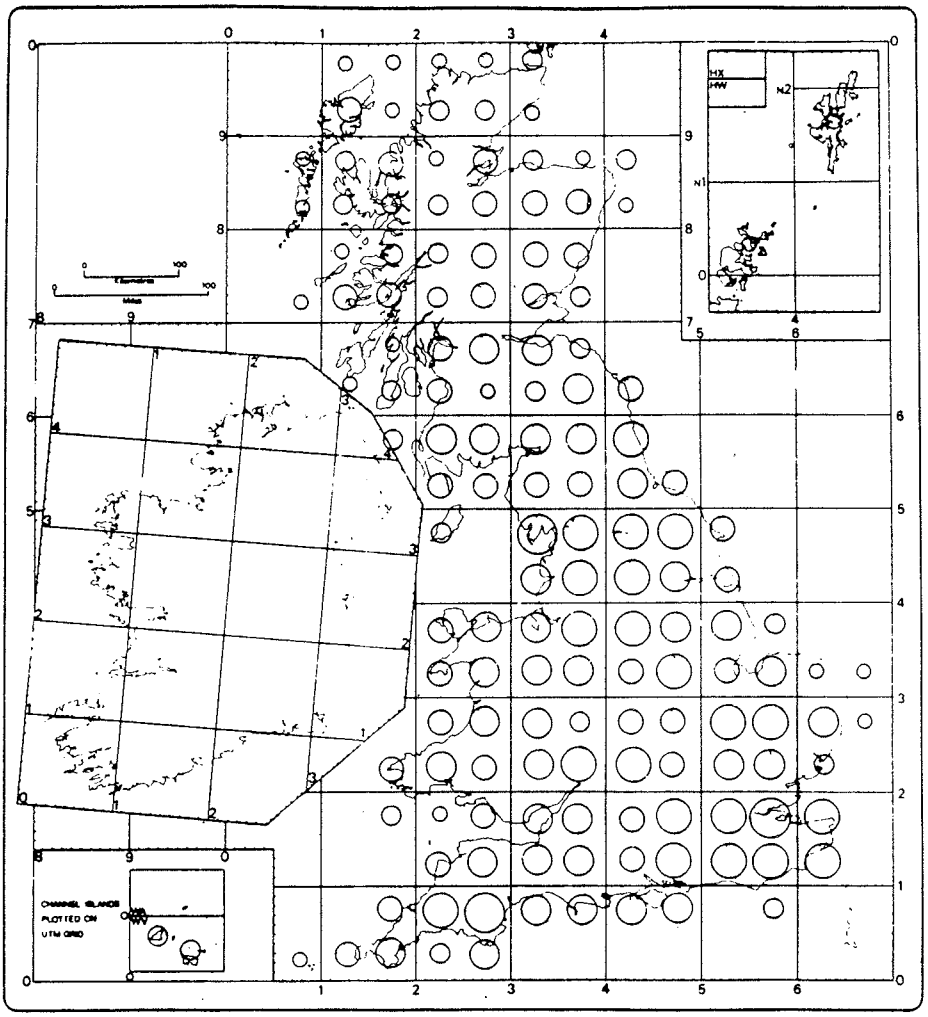
Table 2: Records by month

Number of records per 50 km^2 - All species



1 - 9	100 - 249
10 - 24	250 - 499
25 - 49	
50 - 99	500+

Map 1: Number of records received for each 50 km grid square.



○ I - 3
○ 4 - 6
○ 7 - I2
○ I3 - I8
○ I9 - 24
○ 25 +

Map 2: Number of species recorded per 50 km grid square.