

BRITISH MYRIAPOD

GROUP, NEWSLETTER No. 21

Autumn 1994. Editor: Dick Jones

PER ARDUA AD ATLAS?

Those who were at Meigle will recall a certain amount of heated discussion and several who voiced dissatisfaction with the service from BRC. Unfortunately Paul Harding could not be there due to illness so there was nobody to defend BRC's position. Therefore on 5th May Dave Bilton, Helen Read and myself went to Monks Wood to thrash things out. The gist of what was achieved is as follows.

BISG will reduce to one newsletter but BMG will retain two per year as it is two schemes ie. millipedes and centipedes. They will come out in Feb. and Sept.

The millipede data will be processed and an atlas produced when suitable funds have been obtained. (We are working on this.)

BRC is near to having a test version of a data input (and output?) programme for dispersal to schemes.

ROUND UP

Gordon Corbet has just sent me some Orkney records, including *Boreoiulus tenuis* which is new to the islands. He says that there are very few records considering how much time was spent in searching. He went in August. I wonder if hunting in the autumn or winter would be any more productive?

This autumn and winter why not go out and look for Chordeumatids, (Newsletter Nos 9, 10.) I'm sure that they are being overlooked. Also, if it is wet then look for Blaniulids. For example, is *Boreoiulus tenuis* absent from Wales? I don't believe that they are absent from the west coast, especially when they are present in Ireland.

The next BISG/BMG field weekend will be at Cockermouth, Cumbria on 20-23 April. See the sheet with this newsletter.

Helen Read has had some headed note paper printed for use when BMG business requires us to be official. It says BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP at the top and it has the coiled up *Unciger foetidus* (Blower p. 187) in grey on a buff background. She will bring some to the next weekend so that you can all see it.

Some of you are still waiting for replies to your letters/tubes of specimens that were sent to me this summer. I'm slowly getting through them but I'm afraid that some will be sometime yet. Sorry, but this year has been hectic what with trips abroad, summer holidays, building greenhouses, newsletters etc.

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	90	S. Gregory
	89	R. E. J.
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	73	S. Gregory
	88	A. N. Keay
	89	S. Gregory
	90	S. Gregory, D. T. Richardson
	H25 & H27	M. Cawley
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	7	S. Gregory
	73	S. Gregory J. Daws
	82	G. B. Corbet
	89	S. Gregory, R. E. J. J. P. Richards
	90	S. Gregory, B. Mesibov, Lee & Richards
	91	B. Mesibov, D. T. Richardson
	111	G. B. Corbet
	H29	M. Cawley
<i>Brachychaeteuma bagnalli</i>	73	J. Daws
	89	S. Gregory
<i>B. bradeae</i>	89	S. Gregory
<i>B. melanops</i>	7	S. Gregory
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	91	A. N. Keay
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>	7	S. Gregory
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	89	S. Gregory, J. P. Richards
	H28	M. Cawley
	7	S. Gregory
<i>Craspedosoma rawlinsii</i>	H28	M. Cawley
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>	25	K. Hill
	26	P. Lee
	68	G. B. Corbet
	73	S. Gregory
	90	S. Gregory, P. Lee
	90	G. B. Corbet, S. Gregory, P. Lee, D. T. Richardson, C. P. Rawcliffe etc.
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>	85	G. B. Corbet
	90	J. P. Richards
<i>C. latestriatus</i>	81	G. B. Corbet
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>	25	P. Lee
	90	J. P. Richards
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	H27	M. Cawley
	7 & 38	S. Gregory
	68	P. Lee
	73	J. Daws
	90	G. B. Corbet, P. Lee, D. T. Richardson
<i>Melogona gallica</i>	73	S. Gregory
	82	G. B. Corbet
<i>M. scutellare</i>	7 & 73	S. Gregory
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	H29	M. Cawley
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>	32 & 89	S. Gregory
	85	G. B. Corbet
	90	P. Lee
<i>Ophiodesmus albananus</i>	H29 & H28	M. Cawley
<i>P. inconstans</i>	H28	M. Cawley

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

REJ

This was held at the Belmont Centre, Meigle, Perthshire, between Thursday 7th and Sunday 10th April. Thirteen members stayed all or part of the time (we clashed with the Arachnologists' meeting in Edinburgh and the Mammal Society as usual), one came for two dinners and two others joined us for outings. They included Richard Brinklow, Curator at Dundee Natural History Museum and Mrs Anne Reid a local mother, both eager to learn collecting techniques.

We were accommodated in a wooden hut, "Kinloch", well appointed on a modest scale with all facilities indoors so we had no need to use the distant ablutions. There was no bar but those who wanted had no distance to go. Off the dining room was a lounge where we met on Friday and Saturday and where Bob Mesibov from Tasmania gave a lecture, well illustrated, on the problems and results of collecting in his country.

The weather on Friday, snow and rain, hindered collecting and some indulged in long distance sight-seeing. There was an improvement on Saturday, at least on the lower ground; those who ventured to the Moor of Rannoch were almost stuck in a snowdrift. Only the results, when gathered and presented, will show if the exercise was worthwhile or not. I am optimistic.

CENTIPEDES AT MEIGLE

Species.	Square No. 27/NN					37/NO										
	45	55	65	75	86	95	05	12	14	19	22	23	24	25	33	34
<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	■			■	■		■			■	■	■	■	■		■
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>		■		■												
<i>G. electricus</i>								■					■		■	■
<i>G. insculptus</i>	■		■	■									■	■		■
<i>Lithobius macilentus</i>					■											
<i>L. calcaratus</i>				■												
<i>L. crassipes</i>					■	■	■		■				■	■		
<i>L. microps</i>					■								■			
<i>L. forficatus</i>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■
<i>L. melanops</i>		■									■			■		
<i>L. tenebrosus</i>					■											
<i>L. variegatus</i>												■				
<i>Necrophloeophagus flavus</i>	■				■								■		■	■
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>								■					■			

Species.	Square No. 37/NO cont.														
	35	36	37	43	44	45	46	53	54	55	56	57	64	66	67
<i>Brachygeophilus truncorum</i>	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>						■									
<i>G. insculptus</i>					■	■	■		■				■	■	■
<i>Lithobius macilentus</i>												■			
<i>L. crassipes</i>	■	■			■	■	■		■	■			■	■	■
<i>L. microps</i>						■		■							
<i>L. forficatus</i>	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<i>L. melanops</i>					■		■			■	■				
<i>Necrophloeophagus flavus</i>			■	■		■		■	■		■		■		
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>						■									

MILLIPEDES AT MEIGLE

Species.	Square No. 27/NN						37/NO											
	45	55	65	75	86	96	04	12	13	14	15	19	22	23	24	25	32	33
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>															■			■
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>		■											■		■		■	■
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>								■	■				■	■	■		■	
<i>Brachychaeteuma bradeae</i>																		■
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>		■											■		■	■	■	■
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>							■						■				■	■
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>															■			
<i>Craspedosoma rawlinsii</i>	■																	
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>							■			■			■		■	■	■	
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>							■											■
<i>C. punctatus</i>	■	■	■	■	■	■				■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>												■	■			■		
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>														■	■			
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>														■	■			■
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>																■	■	
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>															■			
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>		■			■			■						■	■	■	■	■
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	■	■	■	■					■				■		■	■	■	
<i>P. inconstans</i>								■					■		■			■
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	■	■	■		■					■		■		■	■	■	■	
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>		■	■		■			■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■

Species.	Square No. 37/NO cont.																
	34	35	36	39	43	44	45	46	53	54	55	56	57	64	65	66	67
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>							■										
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>						■	■		■			■					
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	■					■	■					■		■			■
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	■	■				■	■	■		■			■				■
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>						■	■					■					
<i>Choneiulus palmatus</i>						■			■								
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	■	■				■	■			■	■	■					
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>	■																
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>						■											
<i>C. latestriatus</i>					■				■								
<i>C. punctatus</i>	■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■			■	■
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>						■		■									
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	■							■		■		■	■				■
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>	■	■															
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>									■						■		
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	■	■		■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■				■
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	■					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■
<i>P. inconstans</i>												■					
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	■	■	■			■		■		■	■	■	■			■	■
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			

RESULTS.

These are very good indeed and show what can be achieved in a couple of days despite, or perhaps because of(?), the weather. Both millipedes and centipedes have in the main extended their ranges. The blaniulids were much in evidence possibly due to the wet weather. Steve Gregory found the first Scottish *Brachychaeteuma bradeae*, (see also his piece on the Solway). *Macrosternodesmus palicola* was found on a number of occasions but there were no *Ophiodesmus albonanus*. Have we reached the limit of this species in Fife? Only time will tell. One thing that I am certain of, there are no *Glomeris marginata* north of a line from the Clyde to the Forth!

The centipedes were good too. Andy Keay found a *Lithobius tenebrosus*, the first Scottish record, which is very interesting indeed. Obviously it does occur in various parts of Britain but it is rarely found. Why is it so rare, apparently at least?

WOODLOUSERS GO MILLIPEDEING

Steve Gregory

Prior to the BISG/BMG weekend in Meigle Jon Daws and myself spent a few days on the Solway Coast in south-western Scotland (VC's 73 & 74) in the mistaken belief that some unusual woodlice would be found there (it being bathed in the Gulf Stream and all that!). The first day was spent travelling north from Oxford. We hit the Scottish coast before dark to find an abundance of *Cylindroiulus latestriatus* with a few *C. britannicus* thrown in for confusion! A brief visit to the nearest churchyard turned up a single *Melogona scutellare* in the fast fading light. A quick dash along a rather tortuous route got us to the B&E in Kirkcudbright by 9pm. Fish and chips was followed by the traditional couple of pints before bed.

Much to my dismay Jon was up at dawn (well, before I was anyway!). He triumphantly returned with some "little white jobs" which he'd found co-habiting with some Trichoniscid woodlice under a paving slab bolted to the bottom of a rubbish bin. These proved to be *Macrosternodesmus palicola* and *Boreoiulus tenuis* and set the scene for the rest of the day. Coastal sites were alternated with churchyards for variety. Nothing much was found on the coast, a few *Glomeris* and *Brachyiulus pusillus*, but the churchyards revealed many more little white jobs.

I suggested to Jon that he look out for *Ophiodesmus* and collect any large *Macrosternodesmus* that coil when provoked. Jon declared that he'd found one. "Is it a flat-back?" I asked. "Oh yes" he replied. Unconvinced I ambled over to see what was clearly not *Ophiodesmus* but, even better, a *Brachychaeteuma* and it appeared to be a male! (It turned out to be *B. bagnalli*.) The next and last churchyard of the day revealed a few more *B. bagnalli*, a *Melogona gallica* and a male *Choneiulus palmatus*. These were, amongst the usual *B. tenuis* and *M. palicola*, in soil under stones at the base of a stone wall.

The next morning before breakfast I popped over to Kirkcudbright churchyard and found that Jon's rubbish bin was the only thing to look under in this neatly manicured site. This was duly tipped over, complete with bolt-on paving slab, to reveal some more *B. bagnalli*. The rest of the day was spent heading up to Meigle adding a few more *B. tenuis*, *M. palicola* and another *M. gallica* on the way. In all 21 species of millipede and 11 species of centipede were collected from 12 sites, mostly in VC 73. But did we find any woodlice.....?

MILLIPEDES OF Co. SLIGO, NORTH WEST IRELAND.

Martin Cawley.

Like most parts of Ireland, Co. Sligo has traditionally been underrecorded for millipedes, and so, spurred on by a chance find of *Leptoilulus belgicus* and armed with Blower, I set off on a brief survey of the county in October 1993. Between then and May 1994 I sampled 40 sites in about half of the 10km. squares in Co. Sligo. My survey was strongly biased towards woodlands (21 sites), however I also checked some blanket bogs, grasslands, waste ground, quarries, coastal sites and gardens.

In all I recorded 25 species; ranked in terms of the number of sites at which they were recorded, these are *Brachydesmus superus* 25 sites, *Ophiulus pilosus* 22, *Cylindroiulus punctatus* 19, *Tachypodoiulus niger* 19, *Proteroiulus fuscus* 17, *Polydesmus angustus* 13, *Glomeris marginata* 13, *Nanogona polydesmoides* 12, *C. britannicus* 10, *Macrosternodesmus palicola* 10, *Brachychaeteuma bagnalli* 9, *Bianiulus guttulatus* 7, *Boreoiulus tenuis* 5, *C. latestriatus* 5, *Brachyiulus pusillus* 4, *Nemasoma varicorne* 4, *Ophiodesmus albonanus* 4, *P. gallicus* 4, *Julus scandinavicus* 3, *Melogona scutellare* 3, *P. denticulatus* 3, *P. inconstans* 2, *Leptoilulus belgicus* 2, *Chordeuma proximum* 1 and *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* 1.

Ommatoiulus sabulosus seems to be absent from the county and *P. gallicus* was found to be more local than might have been expected. A few species showed marked variation in seasonal abundance, eg. *Tachypodoiulus niger* was very scarce during the winter months although it is a very obvious species generally. *P. gallicus* and *O. albonanus* were not found in winter either but became apparent in April. On the other hand, *N. polydesmoides* was common in winter but hard to find in spring.

M. palicola is relatively common here, occurring in woodlands, gardens etc. on lime rich soils. It is common in my garden, turning up even on hot July days. *B. bagnalli* is also widely scattered here, in gardens, quarries and road verges. All of my specimens were easily assigned to *bagnalli* on the gonopods. I specifically searched for this species in quarries so the relative abundance in my list is probably overstated.

M. scutellare was first recorded in Ireland by Declan Doogue, based on specimens he collected in Co. Sligo. I found it to be widely scattered but distinctly local here. *C. proximum* and *C. rawlinsii* were found together at one woodland site along the shore of Lough Gill. The woodlands around this lake support a number of Irish rarities such as the snail *Cochlodina laminata* and the Strawberry tree, *Arbutus unedo*.

ADDRESSES FOR CORRESPONDENCE

- Martin Cawley, 26 St. Patricks Terrace, Sligo, Ireland.
- Steve Gregory, 3 Riverview, Kennington, Oxford. OX1 5QJ
- Dick Jones, 14 Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6HP Tel. 0485 541790
- Andy Keay, 37 Merrymeet, Woodmanstern, Surrey SM7 3HX Tel. 0737 363013

NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER Material for inclusion should reach R.E.J. by Feb. 1st.