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SOME MYRIAPODS FROM BRITTANY

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The Breton fauna is of particular interest to students of British myriapods being likely to have similarities to that of south and south-west England and southern Ireland and it seems useful to place on record some recent information.

1. Collected S. Peters, det. A.N. Keay
(reported by A.N. Keay in B.M.G. Newsletter, November 1983)
Hedgerow litter, by a camp site about 6.5 km (4 miles) from Brest (22.iv.83):
Lithobius variegatus Leach, one female
Lithobius microps Meinert, two females
2. Collected P.T. Harding
 - a. Pine-oak wood above La Mataile (9.vi.83):
Schendyla nemorensis C.L. Koch
Geophilus carpophagus Leach
 - b. Dune heath with scrub, Carnac Plage (12.vi.83):
Lithobius forficatus L.
3. Collected R.E. Jones
Rock crevices, partly filled with shell fragments, Pelvetia zone,
La Trinité sur Mare, Carnac (10.vi.83):
Hydroschendyla submarina (Grube), numerous specimens.

3. Collected A.D. Barber, K.R. Barber:

a. South of Toulhoat, south side of Montagnes Noir, on D769 (Department of Finistere) roadside (18.viii,85)

i) stones on old road surface,

Brachygeophilus truncorum (Bergsoë & Meinert)

Lithobius piceus L. Koch ♀

Lithobius muticus C. Koch ♀

Glomeris marginata (Villers)

ii) stones on soil

Lithobius forficatus immature

Lithobius calcaratus C. Koch ♂♀

Lithobius crassipes L. Koch ♀

Lamyctes fulvicornis Meinert 8♀♀

iii) mixed woodland, S.E. facing, dead wood

Geophilus carpophagus ♀♀ and juveniles

Cryptops hortensis Leach

Lithobius melanops Newport ♀♀

Glomeris marginata

b. Roscoff, under stone on path in town (18.viii.85):

Lithobius forficatus

Of the twelve species of chilopod and one diplopod recorded, most are widespread in both France and the British Isles but some are of particular interest. H. submarina is relatively poorly recorded in Britain but this is possibly due to difficulty in sampling habitats such as the one described.

Of the Lithobiomorpha, both L.piceus and L. muticus have a restricted distribution in Britain, being apparently confined to the South East whereas in France they are widespread, the former as "France Septentrionale, Alpes" and the latter as "Commun partout" (Demange, 1981). Interestingly, L. fulvicornis which is widespread in Northern Europe is described by both Brolemann (1930) and Demange (op.cit.) as "Pyrenees au-dessus de 1000 m, Allier". It has, however recently been recorded from Dordogne (Barber, in litt.).

Thanks are due to those who collected the specimens described, to Dr. E.H. Eason for his examination of certain lithobiids and to A.N. Keay for permission to quote his record of L. variegatus.

References

- Brolemann, H.W. (1930) Elements d'une Faune des Myriapodes de France,
Chilopodes. Paris.
- Demange, J-M. (1981) Les Mille-Pattes Myriapodes. Éditions Boubée.