

Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group 4 (1987)

MORE MYRIAPODS FROM BRITTANY

J.G. Blower

Department of Environmental Biology, The University, Manchester.

Barber (1986) listed some myriapods recently collected in the French Departments of Finistère and Morbihan. He mentioned the significance of this area to students of British distribution, to which I may add that the three most western Departments are rarely mentioned by Demange (1981). The records presented here resulted from a holiday in the summer of 1986 in Finistère and Côtes du Nord.

Finistère

1. Pointe du Bénodet

Top of shore, west side in area of sea pink, 23.v.86

Geophilus carpophagus Leach male (49 pairs of legs)

Cylindroiulus latestriatus (Curtis) male VIII, 36+2; females XI 40+1, 40+1, 41+1; female XII 40+1

Top of shore, beneath cliff, under stones with rock hoppers, 24.v.86

Pachymerium ferrugineum (C.L. Koch) three large females, all with 55, 36-38 mm one immature (55); coll. D.B.B., J.G.B.

Schendyla peyerimhoffi Brolemann & Ribaut female (43) 19 mm

Under ivy on top of low garden wall, top of shore east side overlooking Mer Blanche, 23.v.86

Lithobius melanops Newport three females, one immature

Cryptops hortensis Leach one

(Also present were Brachinus sclopeta, Philoscia muscorum (Scopoli) and Armadillidium sp.)

2. Beg Meil

Top of shore on sand with pines, 27.v.86

Under ivy on fallen tree

Lithobius forficatus (L.) male, 17 mm

Geophilus carpophagus male (51), 37 mm, immature (49) 20 mm

Under stones

Lithobius melanops immature

Pachymerium ferrugineum immature (51)

Cryptops hortensis one adult, one immature

Cylindroiulus latestriatus male IX 35+2

3. Pointe du Raz; under stones, 26.v.86

Lithobius forficatus

Lithobius melanops male coll. J.B.B.

Geophilus carpophagus immature (49)

Cylindroiulus latestriatus female XII, 43:1

4. Quimper, north wooded side of Mont Frugy overlooking town, 28.v.86

Under bark

Cylindroiulus punctatus (Leach) ad. lib. incl. male X 47+2, 2 VI, 3 V

Cylindroiulus truncorum (Silvestri) two females, IX 38+1, 14.5 X 1.16 mm, XI 41+2, 17.5 X 1.33 mm; diagnosis on size, seven and eight anal valve setae and vulvae.

Côtes due Nord

5. Perros Guirec

Camp site, Le Ranolien

In tent, 30.v.86

Lithobius calcaratus C.L. Koch coll. J.N.B.

Ommatoiulus sabulosus (L.) coll. J.B.B. male 49+1

Under stones, open part of site, 31.v.86

Lithobius forficatus immature, 4+4 mxp. teeth

Lithobius calcaratus male

Shore path by Ploumanach, 30.v.86

Haplophilus subterraneus (Shaw) female (81) associated with Myrmica sp. and Platyarthrus

Schendyla nemorensis (C.L. Koch) immature (39)

6. Pointe du l'Arcouest, 2.vi.86

Shore just below car park for Ferry to Isle de Bréhat

Under lichen-covered stones at high water neap, with Orchestis sp., but only just above zone with Gammarus sp. and Carcinus moenas Strigamia maritima (Leach) common, two adults and an immature coll. C.C.B., and J.G.B. (47) 24.3 mm, (49) 25.3 mm, (51) 17.5 mm.

Small island, 100 m further out from mainland, cut-off at mid tide; lower shore level than above; under stones with muddy silt substrate, (Sphaeroma sp. in pool nearby).

Hydroschendyla submarina (Grube) several seen only one tubed, female (49) 25.4 mm.

7. Trebeurden castle, 3.vi.86

On hillside, under bark.

Proteroiulus fuscus (A.M. Stein) females

In leaf litter

Gomeris marginata (Villers) male and imm. with perplexa markings

Cylindroiulus latestriatus female VIII 37+2

The most interesting chilopods were the littoral and semi-littoral Hydroschendyla submarina, Pachymerium ferrugineum and Schendyla peyerimhoffi, all with restricted distribution in Britain. H. submarina occurred in habitats very similar to those occupied by S. maritima; whilst both species can be exposed in rock crevices, they clearly live commonly under stones also. This was my first sighting of H. submarina; it has a reddish tinge like Strigamia maritima; I am warned to look very carefully at all the S. maritima I find in the future. P. ferrugineum is only known from one locality in Britain. In France, it has previously not been recorded from the Atlantic coast (Demange, 1981); I think southern Brittany qualifies as Atlantic coast. Schendyla peyerimhoffi is not included in Demange (1981). The most interesting diplopod was Cylindroiulus truncorum; although not listed in Demange (1981) it is said to occur in greenhouses there by Schubart (1934); previously, the species has not been recorded in an out-of-door site in northern Europe.

My thanks to Cathy, Jonathan and David Blower for much energetic stone turning.

References

- Barber, A.D. (1986). Some myriapods from Brittany. Bull. Br. Myriap. Cp.  
3: 26-28
- Demange, J.-M. (1981). Les Mille-Pattes. Editions Boubée pp 1-288
- Schubart, O. (1934). Diplopoda. Tierwelt Dtl. 28: pp 1-318