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LITHOBIUS TENEBROSUS MEINERT FROM ABERYSTWYTH, CARDIGANSHIRE

A N Keay

46 Albany Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5JA

Lithobius tenebrosus was first recorded from Britain by R S Bagnall in 1913 from County Durham and again from Cornwall in 1945 by F A Turk (both as L. nigrifons). Neither of these early records have been confirmed and Dr Eason has some doubt of the validity of the Bagnall record (pers.comm.,1988).

The April 1988 field trip of the BMG/BISG to Constitution Hill, Aberystwyth (22/58-81-) has provided the first confirmed record of L.tenebrosus from Britain. The specimen was found in a crevice in a sea cliff at about 10 metres. Other species present at the site were Strigamia crassipes, Cryptops hortensis, Lithobius forficatus and Lithobius melanops.

Description

A pseudomaturus female, light chestnut brown (slightly mottled)

Length: 9.5mm Breadth: 1.0mm

Antennae: 35 articles (Fig.1)

Head: Marginal ridge interrupted and slightly projecting laterally (Fig.1)

Ocelli (1+13) are more numerous than would be expected in a pseudomaturus of other species of a comparable size.

Forcipular segment with 2+2 prosternal teeth in almost a straight line. Prosternal teeth well developed and the internal pair slightly larger than the external pair. Parodontal spine slender (Fig.3).

Trunk: T9, T11 and T13 with small prosterior projections (the projections on T13 are almost as small as those on T9 and not larger as in L.melanops etc.)(Fig.2).

Female genitalia with 2+2 gonopod spurs (Fig.4) and a narrow claw.

Coxal pores: Round with 3 on each leg. (3-6 in mature specimens)

Spinulation (see Figs 5 and 6)

DaC absent

15 DaP absent

15 VaF present

15 VmC absent

15th legs without accessory claw.

Lithobius tenebrosus is known from Austria, Germany, Scandinavia and Switzerland.

References

- Eason, E.H. (1964). Centipedes of the British Isles. London, Warne.
Eason, E.H. (1981). A review of the north-west European species of Lithobiomorpha with a revised key to their identification. Zool. J. Linn. Soc. (1982) 74:9-33.

Acknowledgements

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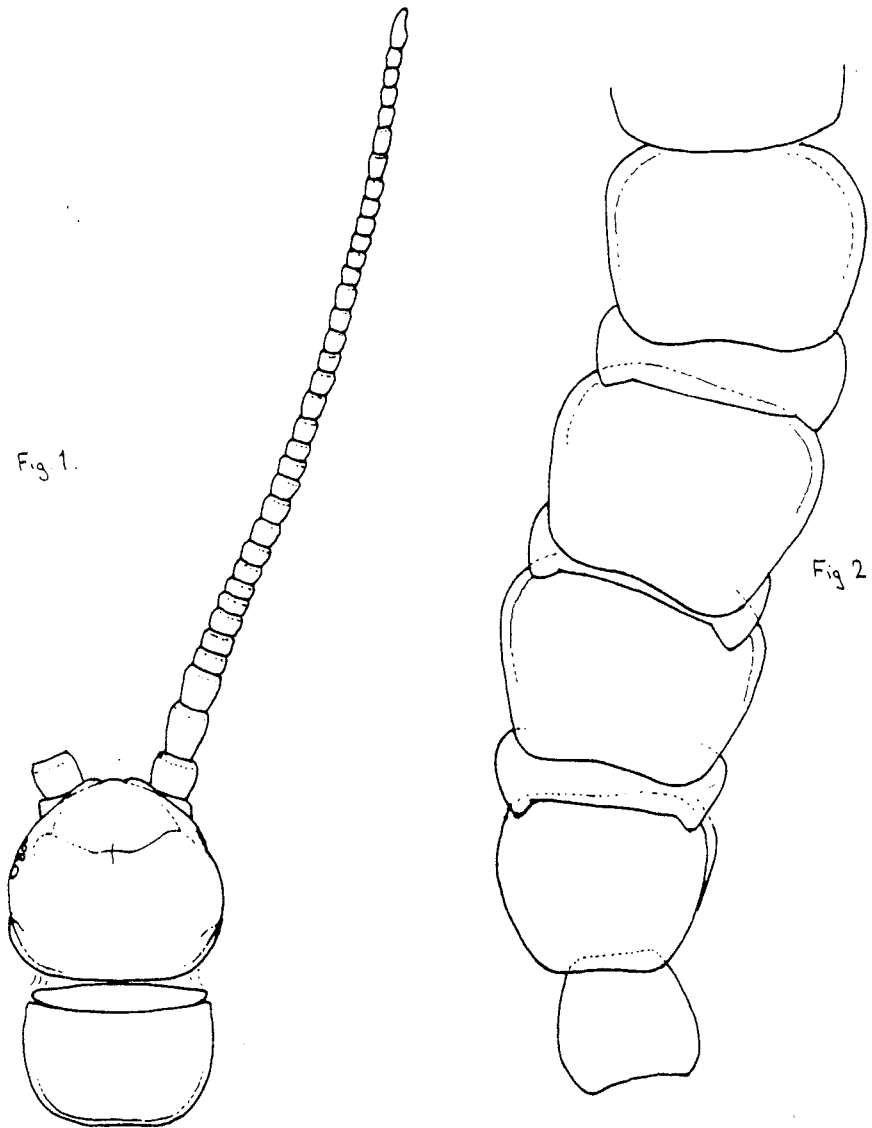


Fig. 3

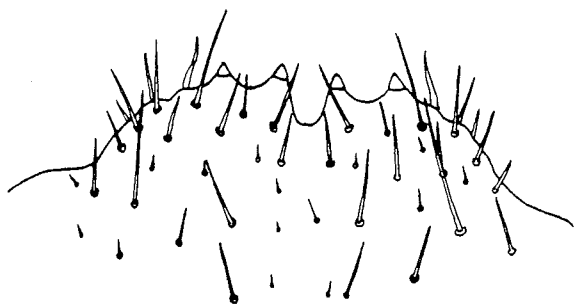


Fig. 4.

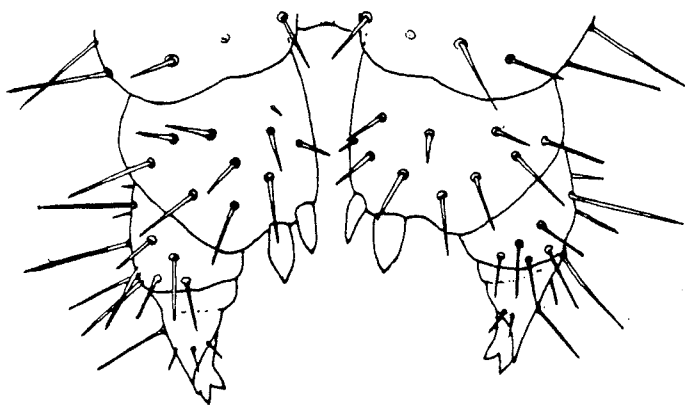
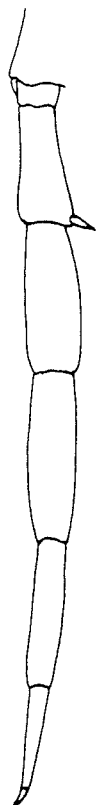


Fig. 5



Fig 6



Figs 1-6 Lithobius tenebrosus pseudomaturus female from Aberystwyth:

1. Head and first tergite, dorsal
2. Tergites 8-15
3. Forcipular prosternal teeth, ventral
4. Gonopods ventral
5. 15th leg, ventral
6. 15th leg, dorsal