MISCELLANEA

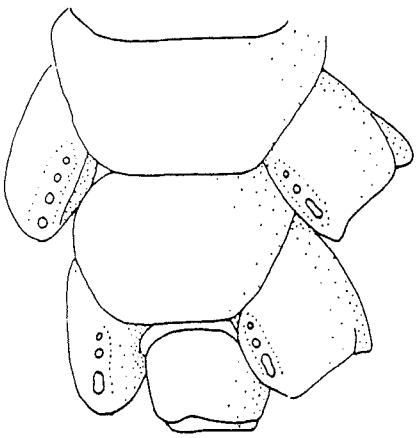
REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF COXAL PORES IN LITHOBIUS VARIEGATUS LEACH

During routine measurements of a sample of the Lithobius variegatus population from Lydeard Hill, Somerset on 10 March 1988 a fourth post larval stadium male, 17.5mm long, was taken with an abnormal number of coxal pores. Lydeard Hill is 1Km east of West Bagborough, Grid Reference ST 182 339.

Post larval stadium 4 Lithobius variegatus have five pores on the coxa of leg 12 and 4 on the coxa of each of legs 13, 14 and 15 (Eason, 1964). The Lydeard Hill specimen had 5.4.3.3. pores on the right hand side and 5.4.4.3 on the left (Fig.1). The reduction in pore number is due to the fusion of the strongly sclerotised rims of the two distal pores in each case (Fig.2). The ducts of the coxal organs remain separate within the unified pore.

There is no indication that there has been any previous damage and regeneration and it seems probable that this is a case of a developmental abnormality.

A case of an abnormally high number of coxal pores in a female Lithobius variegatus from the same population was ascribed by Lewis (1977) to regeneration.



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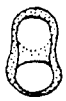

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Figure 1. Ventral view of posterior end of male Lithobius variegatus to show coxae of legs 14 and 15.

Figure 2. Fused coxal pores of right leg 15.

References

Eason, E.H. (1964). Centipedes of the British Isles. London; Warne.

Lewis, J.G.E. (1987). On some structural abnormalities in Lithobius and Cryptops (Chilopoda) and their possible significance. Bull. Brit. Myriapod Gp 4: 3-6

J G E LEWIS
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BRACHYGEOPHILUS TRUNCORUM (Bergsoe and Meinert) with 35 pairs of legs.

On 24 January 1989, four Brachygeophilus truncorum were collected from beneath the bark of logs and stumps in a very open thinned larch plantation at Lawford near Crowcombe. Somerset (Grid ref ST 126364, altitude 145m). Two were females with 39 pediferous segments. Two were males. One with 37 pediferous segments, the other with only 35. I have not hitherto collected a Brachygeophilus with fewer than 37. Eason (1964) gives 37-39 trunk segments for males and 39-41 for females.

References: Eason, E.H. (1964). Centipedes of the British Isles London; Warne.

J G E LEWIS

A YELLOW MUTANT OF LITHOBIUS VARIEGATUS LEACH

On 18 October 1988 whilst sampling a population of Lithobius variegatus under stones in Beech Wood at Lydeard Hill near Bishops Lydeard, Somerset (Grid ref. ST 183339. altitude 330m) a yellow specimen was collected by Miss Beccy Osborn.

The specimen was a male, body length 18mm with a coxal pore formula of 5.4.4.4. The head was yellowish brown (Pompeian yellow), the trunk brownish yellow (yellow ochre), the gut showing through as linoleum brown. The legs were yellow ochre, the posterior ones with pale brown bands. The purple pigment, lithobioviolin, appeared to be absent.

The specimen was kept alive until 25 October 1988 when it was preserved in 70 per cent ethanol. It showed no change in colour during that time.

J G E LEWIS

SOME YORKSHIRE RARITIES

DIPLOPODA

Macrosternodemus palicola, Brolemann. Described by Blower (1952) as being found in the adjacent counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cheshire and Lancashire, has

until recently eluded detection in Yorkshire. First record for Yorkshire from Pieces Holt, nr Maltby: 43(SK) 54-91-:VC 63: 7/5/84:W A Ely, from a garden in Riddlesden, nr Keighley: 44(SE)081425: VC 64: 3/10/85, 21/5/88, and 27/10/88: P Lee, a garden in Ryhill, Wakefield 44(SE)394156: VC 63: 7/5/88: P Lee and grounds of Ingleborough Hall, Clapham 34(SD)784693: VC 64: 3/2/87: P Lee.

Ophiodesmus albonanus (Latzel) presence in Yorkshire based on a single record by Bagnall from near Richmond 45(NZ)10: VC 65: in 1921 (Blower, 1952). Recent records: garden in Riddlesden, nr Keighley: 44(SE)083425: VC 64: 2/5/88: P Lee and ground of Lotherton Hall, Leeds 44(SE)450360: VC 64: 28/7/88: P Lee, D T Richardson.

Brachychaeteuma bagnalli, Verhoeff from Easingwold 44(SE)57: VC 62: April 1956 and August 1961 by J Gordon Blower. Recent records both by P Lee - How Stean Gorge, Lofthouse 44(SE)093734: VC 64: 7/6/86 and garden in Riddlesden, nr Keighley: VC 64: 27/10/88.

CHILOPODA

Clinopodes linearis (C L Koch) Presence in Yorkshire based on a single siting of a male at Sewerby 54(TA)0268: VC 61: by Bagnall in 1935 (Blower, 1955) and no other sitings have been made until recently. Under plank in walled garden at Norton Conyers 44(SE)318762: VC 65: 1/10/88: 2 oo : P Lee/D T Richardson.

References

Blower, Gordon 1952: British Millipedes with Special Reference to Yorkshire Species. Naturalist. 1952: 145-157

Blower, Gordon 1955: Yorkshire Centipedes: Naturalist: 1955: 137-156

P LEE, 20 Southlands Mount, Riddlesden, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 5HB
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A SECOND BRITISH SITE FOR PACHYMERIUM FERRUGINEUM (C L KOCH)

During a visit by the Orpington Field Club to Walberswick National Nature Reserve on the Suffolk coast on 20 May 1989, I took the opportunity to search the shingle bank for centipedes. Only one was found, at a depth of about 10cm on the sparsely vegetated landward slope of the bank. It proved to be Pachymerium ferrugineum, previously recorded in Britain only from a similar site at Cuckmere Haven in Sussex (Lewis 1960; Barber & Keay 1988)

The Walberswick specimen is a female, about 21mm in length, with 45 pairs of legs and 14 antennal articles. The site was at 62/4974 and the only vegetation in the immediate vicinity was sea pea, Lathyrus japonicus. No other invertebrates were found within the shingle in the immediate vicinity but the wolf spider Pardosa agricola was numerous on the surface and amphipods were abundant in the shingle on the seaward slope of the bank.

I am grateful to Mr Paul Hillyard of the British Museum (Natural History) for confirming the identification.

References

Barber A D and Keay A N 1988. Provisional atlas of the centipedes of the British Isles. Huntingdon; NERC

Lewis J G E 1960 Pachymerium ferrugineum (C L Koch 1835), a geophilomorph centipede new to Britain. Entomologist's.mon.Mag. 95:206-2076

G B CORBET, 27 Farnaby Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 4BL

PACHYMERIUM FERRUGINEUM AGAIN

Whilst pitfall trapping on a shingle bank for coleoptera at Newton Bay, Isle of Wight (40/415918) on 7th/8th August 1989 Mr D Anslow collected 3 centipedes wich had been caught in the traps.

These centipedes proved to be:

Pachymerium ferrugineum
Lithobius forficatus
Lithobius melanops

The pitfall traps were placed near the top of the shingle bank amongst sparse vegetation (mostly grass) and were on the landward side of the bank. Very little other fauna was found in the traps.

The Pachymerium specimen is a male with 41 pairs of legs. Specimens from Europe have a range of leg counts as follows:

41-47 for Finland (Palmen)
43-47 for Denmark (Bergsoe and Meinert)
41-57 for France (Brolemann)
41-57 for Portugal (Machado)
53-63 for Canary Isles (Brolemann)
53-63 for the Sahara (Brolemann)
Pachumerium ferrugineum vosselerci from Jerusalem had 67-69 pairs.

It would appear then that the leg count increases the further south the species if found. The specimens found from Britain fall within the range of 41-45 pairs of legs and have all been collected at coastal sites.

A N KEAY

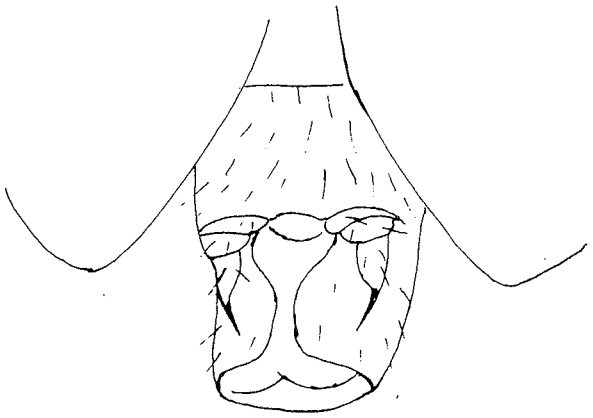
A GYNANDROMOPHIC SPECIMEN OF LITHOBIUS FORFICATUS (LINN.)

On the 12th April 1989 I collected a specimen of Lithobius forficatus from Southampton Docks (41/412119). It was found on a sparsely vegetated area of waste ground under a stone.

When checking the specimen at a later date I found that the specimen is gynandromorphic (it displays both male and female characteristics). The coxal -

pores (5,5,5,4) and the absence of setae on the second genital sternite suggest that it is immature and probably a pseudomaturus. The basal segment of the gonopod is normal and the only abnormality is the female claws on the distal segment.

Ted Eason has seen the specimen and comments that although it is relatively common for lithobids to be male on one side and female on the other he is not ware of any other recorded specimen which has a pair of apparently female claws on a male gonopod.



He also comments that some noxious chemical in the dock area may have induced this abnormality.

A N KEAY

MILLIPEDES ON BLACKBERRIES

In the middle of August last (13.viii.89) I picked a few wild blackberries from a hedgerow at Ivybridge. On washing them through a medium sized darkish brown millipede emerged which subsequently proved to be an immature Tachypodoiulus niger.

Gordon Blower tells me that he has many records of this species on blackberries and that he has on occasion found bird vomit of a black mess containing pieces of Tachypodoiulus. Presumably the birds had taken blackberries and accidentally included T.niger whose taste had caused them to regurgitate the remains.

A D BARBER