

Editorial

I'm writing this in what feels like strange circumstances as Europe is gradually shutting down due to the COVID-19 virus and we have had to take the difficult decision to cancel our annual field meeting. Not attending a meeting the weekend after Easter meeting will feel very peculiar. Over the years, while the actual weekend of the meeting has occasionally varied, and was once (2001) postponed to the autumn due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth, not since before 1982 have we missed one completely. For me the meeting is an annual boost, an opportunity to feel that you are not working alone, a bit of encouragement to get on with those neglected projects and an opportunity to have conversations that only people with shared interests can have.

For me at least I did have an extra boost last year in the form of the International congress in Hungary, a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. Our host and congress organiser, Zoltán Korsós, is well known to some of the British myriapod community as he organised a week of collecting in Hungary for BMIG in 1994 which was memorable for the colourful millipedes, the giant chunks of meat cooked over an outdoor fire and some hilarious video footage of some strange Brits behaving very peculiarly in the Hungarian countryside!

Sadly however, the British contingent to the International Congress was very poor. While the majority of the attendees are professionals working in Universities and museums it is a very friendly group and there is plenty to be gained by those of us who work on these groups in a less professional way. The next congress is in Colombia in August 2021, the first time in South America, before it returns to Europe two years on from that.

Exotic species continue to be discovered in the UK, as this Bulletin can testify, some bringing new species of fungi with them! While many are being discovered in glass houses (as reviewed by Steve Gregory and Keith Lugg), others are being found outside and the distributions of less well known species are expanding, coupled with the discovery of more cryptic species like *Philoscia affinis* the British list continues to grow each year.

While confined to barracks this winter Tony has made good progress on the centipede atlas with help and support from BRC and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour. Staff from BRC have also been hugely supportive in helping BMIG change the way the mailing list is handled and the newsletters sent out. Now using Mail Chimp it is hoped to be able to send out communications more frequently than the previous twice yearly formal newsletters. You should have received one announcing the publication of this Bulletin for example. If you are not on our mailing list do consider signing up, which you can do from the web pages (www.bmig.org).

Let us hope that the period of confinement that many of us are experiencing at the moment encourages some productivity, in sorting out, identifying and writing up projects. The Bulletin would be pleased to hear from you if this is the case!

I hope that all our readers keep safe in these uncertain times and look forward to flurries of activity on social media to keep our spirits up.

Helen Read