

**LITHOBIUS FORFICATUS (L.) (CHILOPODA, LITHOBIOMORPHA) WITH HIGHLY ABNORMAL FEATURES.**

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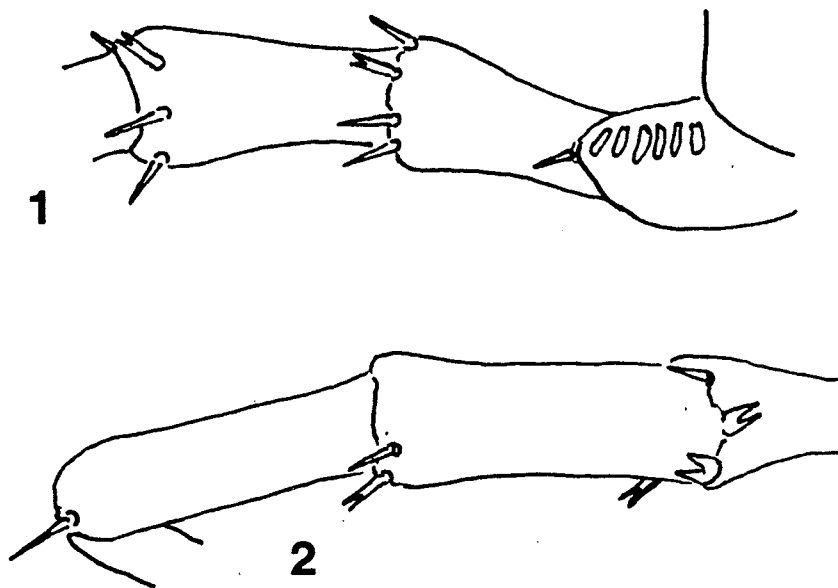
Rathgar, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0BD

Amongst a collection of specimens sent to me by Charles Rawcliffe of Edinburgh was an adult female *Lithobius forficatus* from Crosscryne, near Biggar, Lanarkshire (VC 77) with such abnormal features, especially of its left fifteenth leg, that it seems worthwhile to put it on record. The specimen was collected from dead wood in mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland (strip plantation) on 25.5.96.

The cephalic shield is abnormally developed, presumably as a result of injury with consequential abnormal development of the ocelli on the left side.

The left fifteenth leg shows a series of highly unusual double spines, in particular DmP, DpP, and what appears to be DpF on the dorsal surface, what seems to be VmP and VpF ventrally (see Figs 1 and 2). I have seen the occasional double spine of this type but never a whole series such as this. The terminal claw of this leg is double but not in the usual lithobiid form with a smaller accessory claw. In this case the two claws are of similar size giving a somewhat chelate appearance to the structure. Since the nature of the terminal claw is a commonly used identification feature an animal such as this could no doubt cause considerable confusion to an inexperienced worker.

My thanks are due to Charles Rawcliffe for his collection of this and many other specimens and once again to Dick Jones for preparing the drawings for me.



Figures 1 and 2. Abnormal *Lithobius forficatus* from Crosscryne, Lanarkshire: Upper part of left 15th leg. Figure 1 ventral view. Figure 2 dorsal view.