

ARENOPHILUS PEREGRINUS JONES, 1989 IN CORNWALL: A CENTIPEDE NEW TO MAINLAND BRITAIN

S. J. Gregory

The Northmoor Trust, Little Whittenham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RA

&

R. E. Jones

14 Post Office Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6HP

Examination of specimens collected the 1998 BMG field meeting in Cornwall by S.J.G. revealed a small geophilomorph which did not seem to key out easily. It was sent to R.E.J. who promptly named it as *Arenophilus peregrinus*, a species previously only known from the Isles of Scilly. This is the first recorded occurrence of the species on mainland Britain. Like all that have been found to date it was a female.

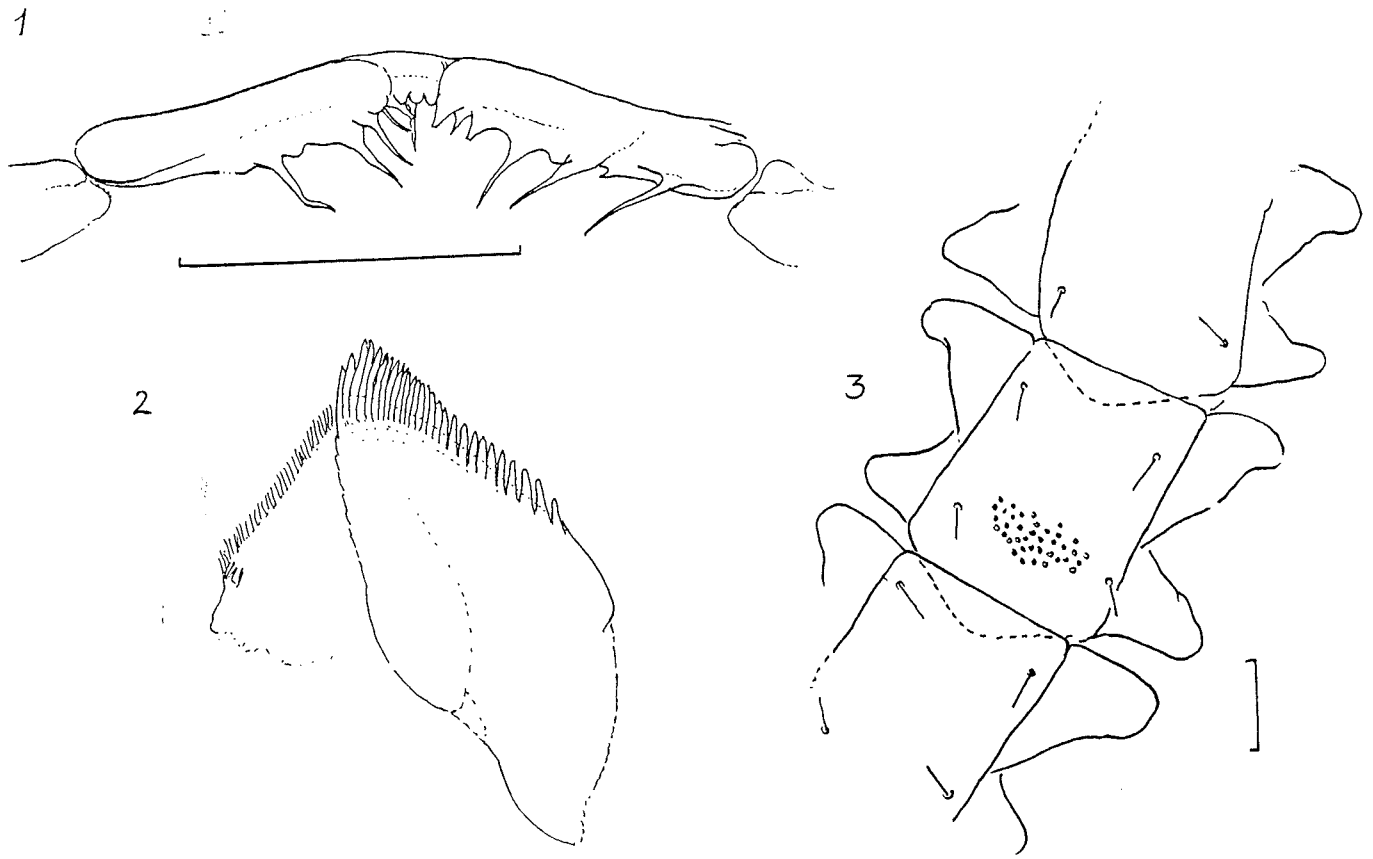
The specimen was collected at Lamorna Cove (10/45-24-, VC1, 17.4.1998). It was found under a small stone at the base of a rocky sea cliff, well above the high water mark. Vegetation was very sparse with a few tufts of *Festuca* sp. and sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*). The terrain was such that it was hard work to find anything at all, mostly it was solid rock. An hour's searching revealed four centipede species: *A. peregrinus*, *Geophilus carpophagus*, *Haplophilus subterraneus* and a few *Lithobius melanops*. The millipede *Cylindroiulus latestriatus* was the most commonly encountered myriapod.

Arenophilus was first recorded on the Isles of Scilly and presumably is an example of a man assisted colonist. It has now been found on the mainland but of course it may have colonised the mainland first and the Isles of Scilly afterwards. It is possible that *A. peregrinus* will occur at other sites in the south west but, like many small geophilomorphs, it may prove to be rather elusive.

While R.E.J. was dissecting the specimen he was able to draw several parts that were not shown in the original paper. These were the labrum, the mandibles and the way that the sternites tuck underneath each other.

REFERENCE

Jones, R. E. (1989) On a new species of centipede (Chilopoda, Geophilomorpha) from the Isles of Scilly. *Journal of Natural History*, **23**: 627-633.



Figures 1-3 *Arenophilus peregrinus* 1) Labrum. 2) Mandible. 3) Segment 6. Scale bars = 0.1mm.