

MISCELLANEA

**Some notes on Cryptops anomalans Newport**

Cryptops anomalans is the commonest chilopod species in my garden at Woodmansterne, Surrey (Grid ref; 51277604) and can be found in virtually every microhabitat in the garden. So far I have been unable to discover this species inside a building (house, garage or garden shed) and in this C.anomalans differs from Lithobius forficatus which often ventures inside of buildings. The commonest habit for this species is in the soil by day but C.anomalans can be frequently found running over the ground surface by night, presumably in pursuit of items of prey.

I have observed C.anomalans eating the following:

Earthworms (species unknown)  
Earwig (Forficula auricularia)  
Centipedes (Henia vesuviana, Haplophilus subterraneus, Necrophloeophagus flavus)  
Millipede (Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus)  
Diplura (species unknown)

In most cases the prey is grasped in the forcipules and devoured whilst still struggling. It was particularly noticeable that the "glue" produced from the sternal pores of Henia vesuviana had little or no effect on the C.anomalans. The specimen of C.caeruleocinctus was dead or paralysed and had been torn open posteriorly between two segments. There was no evidence of ozadene secretion as a defence against the attack by the C.anomalans which may indicate that the C.caeruleocinctus was already dead when found by the C.anomalans. The earwig had had its cephalus removed, leaving the contents of the abdomen free to be eaten.

C.anomalans is often large and specimens of 70 mm are not unusual. It has an aggressive habit and is capable of inflicting a painful bite on man when handled. The area around the site of such a bite swells and there is some considerable local pain (similar to a wasp sting) which disappears after a period of about one or two hours. The bite site remains swollen for several hours.

Adults specimens of C.anomalans have been available from April (when I first moved to Woodmansterne) and are still present in September. There does not seem to have been any diminution of their numbers throughout the dry summer months. Juvenile specimens first appeared in early August but I have no knowledge of their stadia.

**An unusual colour form for Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus (Wood)**

C.caeruleocinctus is described as being brown-black and as having a metallic 'sheen' caused partly by air included in the interring joints (Blower 1985).

On 14th September 1992 I discovered a large male specimen of this species under leaf/twig litter in a domestic garden at Woodmansterne, Surrey (Grid Ref: 51277604) which, in daylight, appeared to be burnished copper in colour. Under microscopic examination the specimen had a red pigmentation and a distinct metallic sheen, causing the burnished copper appearance.

## Scutigera coleoptrata in Hampshire and Suffolk

Mrs Heather Tait of Alton, Hants sends us a record of Scutigera coleoptrata found in her kitchen sink and identified by a friend from the Forestry Commission. This was shortly after she had been presented with a flower arrangement and a bouquet. Informed by Mr Carter that it was uncommon in Britain but occurred in the Channel Islands she remembered the flowers but does not know where they actually came from. We also find in our records a report of this species, collected R. Aggio determined S. Went and A. Beaumont, from Bishops Walk, Lowestoft, 19th March 1988 (Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc. 24:40) (Information from Paul Lee)  
Eds.

## A Few Centipede Records from Northern Ireland

Few records of chilopods from Northern Ireland have been made since the 1920's or earlier. Keith Alexander sent specimens as under last autumn:

<u>Schendyla nemorensis</u>	Murlough (Down) Murlough Bay (Antrim)
<u>Strigamia maritima</u>	Bally keel (Antrim)
<u>Geophilus carpophagus</u>	Murlough (Down)
<u>Brachygeophilus truncarum</u>	Cram Estate (Fermanagh) Murlough (down), Craigagh (Antrim)
<u>Lithobius melanops</u>	Coney Is (Armagh), Giants Causeway (Antrim)
<u>Lithobius borealis</u>	Slieve Donard (Down), Murlough (Down), Orlock (Down), Craigagh (Antrim), Cushleake (Antrim), Ardmalin (Donegal)

These have all previously been recorded from the province. Our thanks to Keith for the specimens.

## The Biology of Millipedes, S.J. Hopkin and H.J. Read

Steve and Helen's book was published last summer and is available from bookshops or Cash with Order Department, Oxford University Press, Freepost NH4051, Corby, Northants NN18 9BR. (See separate advertisement).

## The Status of Lithobius micropodus Matic

Amongst material collected by Charles Rawcliffe from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh were specimens which were tentatively identified by E.H. Eason as Lithobius micropodus Matic = L.microps and referred to in my 1992 account (Ber. nat. - med. Verein Innsbruck Suppl. 10: 339-352).

Dr Eason has now examined a number of specimens of this species and informs me that he is now convinced that our Edinburgh specimens were almost certainly immature Lithobius lapidicola, a species also recorded from the glasshouses there. L.micropodus is quite characteristic and I.Kos (Slovenia) is to publish a description. The description of L.microps microps by J. Kaczmarck (Pareczniki Polski, 1979) shows differences in detail but these may be due to intra specific variability (E.H.E., pers. comm.).

## Myriapods from Fair Isle

The following records of species from Fair Isle are based on collecting during the period 20-27th July 1992 primarily for wood lice and harvestmen and are derived from the report "Invertebrate Twitching on Fair Isle" by Jon Daws.

Chilopoda Brachygeophilus truncorum  
Lithobius forficatus  
Lithobius melanops

All were common throughout the isle.

Diploda Cylindroiulus latestriatus

Around most of the isle under rocks and pieces of wood.  
(Determinations by ADB and REJ)

Eds pp Jon Daws