

BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

Newsletter Number 4 - July 1985

Honorary Editor - D T Richardson

BMG BULLETIN

Copies of Vol. 2 of the revived BMG Bulletin are available from Tony Barber at £2.60 plus 30p postage. Cheques to A D Barber, please.

Articles are required for Vol. 3 and should be submitted as soon as possible - preferably before the end of August 1985. Publication, hopefully, will be January 1986. Manuscripts need not necessarily be typed, as long as they are legible. Diagrams, maps, etc., should be clear and suitable for reproduction without re-drawing.

Orders, manuscripts, etc. to A D Barber.

BMG NEWSLETTER

The more elaborate and lengthy newsletter of the last few years was introduced as a means of communication and as an incentive at a time when interest in the scheme was considered to be at an all-time low and revival of the BMG Bulletin was still very much in the balance.

Now that the Bulletin has been re-established, the Newsletter is to revert to its original role of providing scheme news, notices of coming events, meeting reports and relevant brief field notes. More lengthy and detailed articles should be forwarded to the editor of the BMG Bulletin.

Douglas Richardson will continue as editor of the Newsletter.

BRITISH MILLIPEDE SURVEY - 10,000 RECORDS FOR GREAT BRITAIN

In April 1984 Colin Fairhurst prepared a set of 50 km square maps and analyses of habitat information for all the species occurring in Great Britain. Several copies of these maps and analyses were on sale at the Bangor meeting in April 1985. A few copies remain for sale, and are available from Paul Harding at BRC, price £2.00 each; cheques payable to Dr C P Fairhurst.

PROVISIONAL ATLAS OF CENTIPEDES

Paul Harding (BRC)

Somewhat later than expected, work on getting onto computer file all centipede records received up to the end of 1984, has just been completed. I am very grateful to Andy Keay for all the work he has put in on checking listings from the computer, against the original record cards, for errors at the input stage.

Much work remains to be done on the data before it will be possible to provide draft distribution maps and analyses of records. However, I hope that Tony Barber will have these drafts later this year, and that a Provisional Atlas of Centipedes will be a reality during 1986.



BISG/BMG MEETING, BANGOR - APRIL 1985

Steve Hopkin

About 30 people attended what has now become a permanent fixture in our diaries, the annual Spring joint meeting of BISG/BMG. More than 15 sites were visited over the three days, and a grand total of 21 species of millipedes and 19 species of centipedes was collected. High points were new vice-county records for Melogona scutellare and Polydesmus inconstans, and five other millipedes, 10 new v.c. records for centipedes and Adrian Rundle's excellent talk and provisional key to British millipedes. This will fill the gap until the publication of Gordon Blower's revision of his Linn. Soc. Synopsis, which we were glad to hear was now in press. Low points were, being pelted with horizontal hailstones, and the powerfully-flavoured crisps in our otherwise 'filling' packed lunches! Unfortunately, there was little time for discussion in the evenings and it is hoped that at next year's meeting in Manchester, at least one evening will be left free for examination of each other's specimens. Organising the meeting was made much easier by the prompt response to circulars and the return of species lists before the closing date. I would like to thank all the participants for their cooperation, which helped to make this a successful weekend.

MILLIPEDE SURVEY

D T Richardson

Since taking over in January 1984 I have received just over 4000 records which, when added to approx. 10,000 records received by Colin Fairhurst, places us in a position whereby we can give consideration to the production of a Provisional Distribution Atlas. Whilst this is not exactly imminent, we shall be discussing the matter before the end of this year.

Under the circumstances, therefore, I appeal to you all to let me have any records that you may have or may accumulate during the remainder of this year, as soon as you can.

To those of you who are putting pre-1985 records on to cards for the first time, it is important that you put these on to the OLD RA 13 CARDS (not the new RA 59) - Paul Harding has supplies, and a phone call or letter to Monks Wood will ensure you get your cards.

For 1985 records please use the new RA 59 cards.

There are still many areas in the country which are poorly recorded, and to assist you in this we are very grateful to Gordon Blower for having updated the vice-county distribution tables, which have been added to from the 4000 records in my possession.

You may find that some of your records are not listed - this may be due to a number of reasons beyond my control, and all I ask is that you fill in new cards and let me have them as soon as possible.

## VICE COUNTY DISTRIBUTION : MILLIPEDES

20th. June 1985

ENGLAND:WALES:SCOTLAND:CHANNEL ISLANDS(CI):ISLE OF MAN.

113 Vice-counties

Vice-county										Species	Total Records			
C	0			1			2			3				
I	1234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	567				
-	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Adenomeris gibbosa	0		
-	----	-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Archiboreoiulus pallidus	10		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Blaniulus guttulatus	32		
-	----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Boreoiulus tenuis	10		
-	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Brachychaeteuma bagnalli	0		
-	----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Brachychaeteuma bradeae	4		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Brachychaeteuma melanops	7		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Brachydesmus superus	36		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Brachyiulus pusillus	27		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Choneiulus palmatus	10		
+	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Chordeuma proximum			
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Chordeuma silvestre	1		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Craspedosoma rawlinsii	8		
-	+-----	+-----	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Cylindroiulus britannicus	27		
-	+-----	+-----	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus	24		
-	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Cylindroiulus latestriatus	20		
-	-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Cylindroiulus londinensis	7		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Cylindroiulus nitidus	10		
-	-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Cylindroiulus parisiiorum	9		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Cylindroiulus punctatus	38		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Cylindroiulus truncorum	0		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Cylindroiulus vulnerarius	1		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Enantiulus armatus	1		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Eumastigonodesmus bonci	0		
-	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Glomeris marginata	35		
-	++++	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Julus scandinavicus	22		
+	++++	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Leptoiulus belgicus	4		
-	+-----	-----	-----	++++	-----	-----	-----	+-----	-----	---	Leptoiulus kervillei	6		
-	-----	-----	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Macrosternodesmus palicola	1		
-	++++	+-----	+-----	-----	+-----	-----	-----	-----	+-----	---	Melogona gallica	11		
-	++++	-----	+-----	+-----	-----	-----	-----	+-----	++++	---	Melogona scutellare	13		
-	-----	-----	+-----	+-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Metaiulus pratensis	3		
-	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Nanogona polydesmoides	35		
-	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Nemasoma varicorne	32		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Nopoiulus kochii	0		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Ommatoiulus sabulosus	26		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Ophiodesmus albonanus	17		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Ophiulus pilosus	36		
-	-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Oxidus gracilis	7		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Polydesmus angustus	38		
-	++++	+-----	+-----	++++	-----	+-----	++++	++++	++++	---	Polydesmus denticulatus	24		
-	+-----	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Polydesmus gallicus	30		
-	+-----	+-----	+-----	++++	+-----	++++	++++	++++	++++	---	Polydesmus inconstans	22		
-	+-----	-----	-----	++++	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Polydesmus testaceus	6		
-	+-----	++++	+-----	++++	+-----	++++	++++	++++	++++	---	Polyxenus lagurus	23		
-	-----	-----	-----	+-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Polyzonium germanicum	2		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Prosopodesmus panporus	0		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Proteroiulus fuscus	35		
-	-----	-----	-----	+-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	+-----	---	Stosatea italica	4		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	+-----	---	Stygioglomeris crinita	5		
+	++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	+++++	---	Tachypodoiulus niger	38		
-	+-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Thalassisobates littoralis	3		
-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	+-----	-----	-----	-----	---	Unciger foetidus	1		

## VICE COUNTY DISTRIBUTION : MILLIPEDES

20th. June 1985

ENGLAND:WALES:SCOTLAND:CHANNEL ISLANDS (CI):ISLE OF MAN

113 Vice-counties

Vice-county										Species	Total Records	
3	4	5		6		7		5				
89	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	5		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Adenomeris gibbosa	0
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Archiboreoiulus pallidus	17
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Blaniulus guttulatus	32
-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	Boreoiulus tenuis	14
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Brachychaeteuma bagnalli	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Brachychaeteuma bradeae	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Brachychaeteuma melanops	0
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Brachydesmus superus	37
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Brachyiulus pusillus	21
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Choneiulus palmatus	6
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Chordeuma proximum	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Chordeuma sylvestre	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Craspedosoma rawlinsii	12
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Cylindroiulus britannicus	24
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Cylindroiulus latestriatus	30
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Cylindroiulus londinensis	5
-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	-+	Cylindroiulus nitidus	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Cylindroiulus parisiortum	5
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Cylindroiulus punctatus	38
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Cylindroiulus truncorum	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Cylindroiulus vulnerarius	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Enantiulus armatus	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Eumastigonodesmus bonci	1
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Glomeris marginata	38
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Julus scandinavicus	36
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Leptoiulus belgicus	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Leptoiulus kervillei	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Macrosternodesmus palicola	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Melogona gallica	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Melogona scutellare	16
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Metaiulus pratensis	0
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Nanogona polydesmoides	38
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Nemasoma varicorne	28
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Nopoiulus kochii	4
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Ommatoiulus sabulosus	35
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Ophiodesmus albonanus	11
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Ophiulus pilosus	38
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Oxidus gracilis	9
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Polydesmus angustus	38
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Polydesmus denticulatus	31
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Polydesmus gallicus	15
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Polydesmus inconstans	23
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Polydesmus testaceus	0
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Polyxenus lagurus	18
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Polyzonium germanicum	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Prosopodesmus panporus	0
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Proteroiulus fuscus	38
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Stosatea italica	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Stygioglomeris crinita	6
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	Tachypodoiulus niger	38
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Thalassisobates littoralis	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Unciger foetidus	0

## VICE COUNTY DISTRIBUTION : MILLIPEDES

20th. June 1985

ENGLAND:WALES:SCOTLAND:CHANNEL ISLANDS(CI):ISLE OF MAN

113 Vice-counties

Vice-county								Species	Total Records
7	8	9			1 0	1 1			
6789	01234	56789	01234	56789	01234	56789	012		
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Adenomeris gibbosa	0
----	+	----	----	----	----	----	+	Archiboreoiulus pallidus	2
+++	++++	+++	----	----	++	----	,	Blaniulus guttulatus	13
----	+	+	+	----	+	----	----	Boreoiulus tenuis	1
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Brachychaeteuma bagnalli	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Brachychaeteuma bradeae	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Brachychaeteuma melanops	0
++	+++	+++	+	+	++++	++	+	Brachydesmus superus	23
++	+++	+++	+	+	++	+	----	Brachyiulus pusillus	15
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Choneiulus palmatus	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Chordeuma proximum	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Chordeuma silvestre	0
++	+++	++++	+	----	----	----	----	Craspedosoma rawlinsii	11
----	+++	++	++	+	+	+	+	Cylindroiulus britannicus	11
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus	0
----	+	+	++++	++++	++++	++++	+	Cylindroiulus latestriatus	25
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Cylindroiulus londinensis	0
----	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Cylindroiulus nitidus	4
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Cylindroiulus parisiiorum	0
++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	+	Cylindroiulus punctatus	37
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Cylindroiulus truncorum	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Cylindroiulus vulnerarius	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Enantiulus armatus	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Eumastigonodesmus bonci	0
++++	++++	+	----	----	----	+	----	Glomeris marginata	11
+++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	++++	----	Julus scandinavicus	28
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Leptoiulus belgicus	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Leptoiulus kervillei	0
----	+	----	----	----	----	----	----	Macrosternodesmus palicola	1
----	+	+	----	----	----	----	----	Melogona gallica	1
----	+	+	----	----	----	----	----	Melogona scutellare	2
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Metaiulus pratensis	0
+++	+++	++++	++++	++	+	++++	+	Nanogona polydesmoides	28
----	+++	----	+	+	----	++++	----	Nemasoma varicorne	9
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Nopoiulus kochii	0
++++	+++	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	----	Ommatoiulus sabulosus	32
----	----	+	----	----	----	----	----	Ophiodesmus albonanus	1
++	+++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	+	Ophiulus pilosus	28
+	+	----	----	----	----	----	----	Oxidus gracilis	2
+++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	++	+	Polydesmus angustus	32
----	+	+	----	----	----	----	----	Polydesmus denticulatus	1
----	+	----	+	+	+	+	+	Polydesmus gallicus	1
----	++	----	++	+	+	+	+	Polydesmus inconstans	11
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Polydesmus testaceus	0
+	+	----	+	----	----	----	----	Polyxenus lagurus	3
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Polyzonium germanicum	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Prosopodesmus panporus	0
----	+++	++++	+++	++	++	++++	+	Proteroiulus fuscus	25
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Stosatea italica	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Stygioglomeris crinita	0
+++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	+	----	Tachypodoiulus niger	28
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Thalassisobates littoralis	0
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	Unciger foetidus	0

Visiting the Isle of Sheppey last summer (1985), I stopped to look for specimens in the centre of Sheerness after examining the rather limited number of shops there. Searching on waste sites near the car park in the town centre, I collected several specimens of what I presumed were Lithobius forficatus - medium size, chestnut brown animals. We then went on to a pleasant pub lunch at Harty Ferry (recommended for the food but the myriapod fauna disappointing).

It was only on examination of the specimens at home some time later that I noticed puzzling features of certain of the Sheerness ones. They keyed out in Brölemann to L. peregrinus Latzel, a diagnosis later confirmed for me by Ted Eason. Subsequently, Eric Philp and Adrian Rundle were able to obtain a series of specimens from the town which were much appreciated. An account of the species, which has so far been found nowhere else in North West Europe, will be published in due course.

There are two morals to be drawn from this story. Firstly urban sites, especially seaports, must be collected in. Secondly, watch your "common species", especially from such areas. Ninety-nine percent of the time it was L. forficatus but L. pilicornis has been found from Kent to Cornwall; L. piceus occurs, although only as far as we can tell in rural woodland sites, in Surrey-Sussex-Hampshire; and now we have yet another larger lithobiid. One might also note that the two "rarer" Cryptops (C. anomalans and C. parisi) are typically urban in much of their British range.

#### Differential diagnosis of L. peregrinus:

The forcipular coxosternite teeth can be as low as 3+3 in young post-larval stadia, a feature it shares with L. piceus; 5+5 or even as many as 8+7 teeth in adults; teeth frequently irregular in size.

Tergites 9, 11 and 14 with projections, triangular on T9, narrow on T11 and very narrow and prominent on T13.

Coxal pores up to 7 or 8 on each leg, circular to oval in small specimens but oblong or keyhole-shaped in larger ones, sometimes with additional small circular pores out of line with others.

15th legs with double claw.

Female gonopods with 2+2 spurs, lateral ones appear constricted halfway along length with distal third often serrated.

Spine 15 VaC present on 14th and 15th legs, possibly also on 13.

The double claw of the last legs separates it from L. forficatus. It may more easily be confused with L. piceus, especially younger stages, particularly since both have 15 VaC. However, L. piceus has round or slightly oval coxal pores, females have 3 or 4 gonopod spurs and VaC is usually only present on leg 15, whereas it is present on 14 and often 13 in L. peregrinus. In L. peregrinus with at least 4 coxal teeth the paradont (larger than a seta) is medial (i.e. between most lateral tooth and one of the others), whilst in L. piceus it is lateral (i.e. outside the lateral tooth). This does not hold with younger animals.

## NEW RECORDING CARDS

New-style "Eurocards" are now in use for recording both millipedes and centipedes in the British Isles, as from 1st January 1985.

The new cards are designed for general NW European use and will allow direct comparison between the faunas of different countries, with different species lists, but the same habitat categories (suitably translated) being used by participants in the European Myriapod Survey.

RA 13 (Millipedes) has been replaced by RA 59.

RA 14 (Centipedes) has been replaced by RA 58.

The new cards, and instructions for their use, are available from BRC.

## BMG/BISG MEETING 1986

Details of the April 1986 meeting in Manchester are enclosed. Please return the separate form to Gordon Blower if you are interested in attending.

## NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER

Material intended for the next Newsletter should be forwarded to Doug Richardson by 15th October 1985.

## ADDRESSES FOR CORRESPONDENCE

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