

British Myriapod Group

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Editor: Dick Jones

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THE FUTURE

This Newsletter is different! It takes up far less room and is easier to read. It looks better too, at least I think it does. The advance modern computer printing technology means that it is just as easy to do as the original, possibly even easier and uses less paper. In addition it means that I can receive copy on DOS floppy discs. The drawback is that it costs about £20 to arrange it in this fashion but I think that is well worth it and have funded this issue myself. What do you think? If you like it and you approve then what should we do about funding it? If you think it is terrible then say so. I shall be asking those at the next field weekend their ideas, but if you have any contribution to make to the discussion and will not be coming to the weekend, you can always write to me at the address below.

On another note, we now have £500 towards putting the cards that remain onto the computer at Monkswood. This is due in the main to Helen and the money will come from Burnham Beeches. That is the good news, the bad news is that both "card punchers" at Monkswood are off with long term illnesses! Never mind, we will get an atlas in the end. My headline in the last newsletter, per ardua ad atlas, was right on course. This year's BMG/BISG field weekend will be at Rowah Hall in the Lake District. I must admit I haven't been there since the sixties. Nor have other myriapodologists if the number of

records is an indication of their visits! At first glance it seems to be a well covered area but it then turns out that most of the squares are *Cylindroiulus punctatus* and that is it. The few other species that have anything like coverage are *Nanogona polydesmoides*, *Tachypodoiulus niger*, *Lithobius crassipes*, *L. forficatus*, *L. variegatus*, *Geophilus carpophagus* and *Brachygeophilus truncatus*. I make no predictions this year except to say it will probably rain.

THE PRESENT

Gordon Corbet does it again! The mysterious *Lithobius* that he has been recording at Edinburgh over the past year has been identified as *L. lucifugus*. See the next Bulletin. He thinks it seems pretty weird in view of its continental distribution (high altitude Austria, Germany etc.) but I think it just goes to show how an imported species can take hold if it finds a vacant niche. (It was Gordon after all who wrote a paper on mammals that first made me aware of island introductions back in the sixties.)

The millipede distribution is mainly down to Martin Cawley this time, apparently his job is taking him around Eire at the moment. Lucky fellow. Northern Ireland has got a resident recorder at last. Roy Anderson is recording in the north-east of the island and has sent me a big list. I must admit that I haven't got around to transferring them on to cards but I will do eventually. He has *Leptoiulus belgi-*

cus, *Melogona scutellare* and I think probably *Chordeuma* for a start.

Have you ever looked at *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* ♂♂? Their gonopods that is. Anderson thinks that the ones he finds in Ireland are possibly a different species. I have seen some drawings and I just can't say. Millipedes are notoriously variable in their gonopod structure, at least I find them so, and I think that the range of variation is within the range of *C. rawlinsii*. Unfortunately I don't know the other species at all so I've recommended sending a couple to Maurièzs and we shall see what he says. Watch this space, there may be more than one species in Britain and I shall have to eat my words!

Steve Gregory has found *Polydesmus testaceus* in Oxfordshire but I have not got a card yet.

AND THE PAST

This newsletter contains an account of last year's trip to Hungary. I went on that and it was a very good time. Despite much pressure Steve Gregory did not take up our offer to become the BMG *Scutigera* king. I have looked at the collected Geophilomorphs and there are *Schendyla nemorensis*, *Necrophleophagus flavus*, *Pachymerium ferrugineum*, *Henia* sp., *Clinopodes* sp. and probably a few more. It was a great week and we should go some where like that again, any ideas? France, Ireland, Poland, Spain? Maybe a trip to the Channel Islands is in order, see Tony's piece.

THE BMG EXPEDITION TO HUNGARY
 May-June 1994 Helen Read

The first BMG field meeting to be held outside the United Kingdom was a successful and enjoyable event. Six of us, Tony Barber, Steve Gregory, Dick Jones, Desmond Kime, John Lewis and myself were very ably guided and looked after by Zoltán Korsós from Budapest and also for part of the time Elizabeth Horning from Szeged. The idea was to help Zoltán increase the knowledge of the distribution of Hungarian millipedes and centipedes (and woodlice), thus we spent most of the time in the less well worked west of the country. The habitats we visited varied from woodland to steppe and included a nature reserve only recently accessible now that the army has moved out of it. We also visited an area of inundation forest on the Danube where Steve astounded everyone with his perseverance by continuing to collect whilst being followed by a tremendous cloud of mosquitoes.

Millipedes and centipedes were present in abundance, some we were familiar with like huge *Ommatoiulus sabulosus*, *Unciger foetidus* in its natural habitat and *Polyxenus lagurus* most abundant in the soil. Others were new to us such as the large, impressive and colourful *Polydesmus collaris* and *Cylindroiulus broti* behaving as we expect *Cylindroiulus punctatus* to do in Britain.

On the centipede front there were plenty of Lithobiomorphs to keep Tony happy, lots of large Geophilomorphs (any ideas yet Dick?) and some Scolopendromorphs for John too. Steve even managed to get a *Scutigera* in the centre of Pécs but despite much persuading has so far resisted the temptation to take up Scutigera taxonomy!

My millipede list numbers 18 species (I passed all the centipedes and woodlice on to other people). My most pleasing captures were *Cylindroiulus abaligetanus*, a species Zoltán and I had looked for in vain three years ago; *Allajulus dicentrus*, another small pale beast

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	H4	M. Cawley
	H5	M. Cawley
	H6	M. Cawley
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	77	G. Corbet
	H8	M. Cawley
<i>Brachychaeteuma bagnalli</i>	H8	M. Cawley
<i>B. melanops</i>	H5	M. Cawley
<i>Chordeuma proximum</i>	H5	M. Cawley
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	H5	M. Cawley
	H12	M. Cawley
	H35	M. Cawley
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>	H12	M. Cawley
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	H5	M. Cawley
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	77	G. Corbet
	H5	M. Cawley
	H6	M. Cawley
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>	77	G. Corbet
	H35	M. Cawley
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	H5	M. Cawley
	H6	M. Cawley
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>	83	B. Saville
<i>Ophytulus pilosus</i>	H8	M. Cawley
<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>	90	Dundee Museum
<i>P. gallicus</i>	H8	M. Cawley
<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>	H28	M. Cawley
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	H6	M. Cawley
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	H6	M. Cawley

Please update the lists given in the Bulletin, 1993 REJ

only listed for Hungary previously in the literature with no details of locality/collector/date etc.; and *Brachydesmus troglobius*, only previously found in a cave. An interesting idea for future work is the *Polydesmus denticulatus* which looks a little different from the British specimens both in external features and in gonopod structure. Whilst collecting we thought the *Polyxenus* specimens looked a bit different to the British ones too.

I was very impressed (and I think Zoltán was too) with how hard everyone worked and also how relaxed and easy going people were about eating/sleeping/drinking etc.. Coupled with the very warm hospitality of our hosts this made a very enjoyable week, perhaps just the first of a series of BMG trips abroad. Then again, when we've all seen the Hungarian television documentary about it we might think otherwise. Preview of the uncut version lent itself more easily to a comedy show than a natural history programme!

Thank you to Zoltán, Elizabeth and our taciturn driver for looking after us so well and the mosquitoes and

ticks for all the bites and itches. The complete species list will be available.....soon?!

***Cylindroiulus vulnerarius* in Reading**

One of my undergraduate project students has been carrying out a comparative study with the scanning electron microscope on eyes in different species of millepedes. He called me over to look at a specimen a couple of weeks ago on which he couldn't find an ocelli. I assumed it was probably *Blaniulus guttulatus* as he said it was 'the most common species on the compost heap' of the University Hall of Residence where he is living. However, it turned out to be *Cylindroiulus vulnerarius*, a species not previously known from Berkshire. *Cylindroiulus vulnerarius* is abundant at the site and he is now carrying out tests on moisture preferences as it is the most easily collected species in the Reading area at the moment!

MORE MYRIAPODS FROM GUERNSEY, AND OTHER ISLANDS

Tony Barber

Following Dick Jones' "Guernsey, another island on my list" (Newsletter 20) I took the opportunity whilst on holiday there this summer (1994) to see if I could add other species. The weather was hot a lot of the time but there had been rain and there were some wet days. Arriving at 6am on the overnight ferry we took the car down to the Jerbourg peninsula in the SE of the island and recorded *Lithobius variegatus*, *Cryptops hortensis*, what turned out to be a new island record, *L. borealis*, *Leptoiulus belgicus*, *Cylindroiulus latestriatus* and *C. punctatus*. Also the ubiquitous amphipod *Arcitallitrus dorrieni*. There also seemed to be a few woodlice around.

During the course of the holiday we visited a number of sites, did a rather limited amount of Jones type collecting with geological hammer as well as forceps and turned up quite a number of specimens, most of which seemed to be of a limited number of species. The common millipedes were *L. belgicus*, *Blanniulus guttulatus*, *C. latestriatus*, *C. punctatus* and only about three or four other species it seemed.

Centipedes were a little more diverse. *Haplophilus subterraneus* was widespread and the commonest geophilomorph. *L. variegatus* was also well spread around. The large brown lithobiid found most turned out not to be *L. forficatus* but *L. pilicornis*. I didn't find *L. forficatus* at all except on two islands cut off at high tide, Lihou and Hommet Paradis. 15 centipede species, including four new to Dick's list, were found: *L. borealis*, *C. anomalans*, *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* and *Geophilus fucorum*.

There are a few older records in the past volumes of Bull. Soc. Guernsaise as well as some in the Société's own database including *Scutigera coleoptrata*. Dr Charles David, the Société's entomologist tells me that this turns up regularly from buildings on the east of the island. I did not find it. There are records of *Oxidus gracilis*, *Polyxenus lagurus*, *Polydesmus angustus*, *P. gallicus* and *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* as well.

OTHER ISLANDS

Des Kime collected three centipedes and one millipede species from Herm in 1969 (Barber & Kime, 1970). Société records include *P. lagurus* from Alderney, Sark, Herm and the smaller islands and *C. punctatus* from Sark (SG). I turned over a few stones on day visits and offer the following:

	Alderney	Sark	Herm
<i>P. lagurus</i>	SG	SG	SG
<i>B. guttulatus</i>	❖	❖	
<i>L. belgicus</i>	❖	❖	
<i>C. punctatus</i>		SG	B&K
<i>C. latestriatus</i>	❖		
<i>H. subterraneus</i>	❖		❖
<i>S. nemorensis</i>	❖		B&K
<i>G. carpophagus</i>			B&K
<i>N. flavus</i>			❖
<i>C. hortensis</i>	❖	❖	❖
<i>L. variegatus</i>	❖	❖	B&K
<i>L. forficatus</i>	❖		
<i>L. microps</i>	❖	❖	❖

JERSEY

S. coleoptrata has been known from Jersey for a number of years where it occurs in buildings (Turk, 1946 etc.). The only other species formally published are those listed by Browning in a 1956 paper (EB) as far as I am aware, but I have not checked all the literature.

Through the good offices of Chris Felton of Merseyside (and Dick Jones who checked some of the millipedes) I was able to look at a small collection from pitfall traps made by Dr W. Le Quesne (WL) a few years ago. I

EASON for sale

I have just obtained a copy of Eason for sale, £65.00. It is in good condition, being ex Chelsea College of Science and Technology and virtually unused. I know that this is too much for some people so for £35.00 I will sell my own copy instead if I don't get offers for it. Mine is slightly worn and it has plenty of pencil updates etc. scribbled all over it. Offers for the first one will take precedence!

BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH MYRIAPOD GROUP

Volume 10 of the Bulletin is available, price £4.00 (members and friends), \$5.20 (institutional), \$5.50 (overseas). Prices include surface mail and orders should be sent to Tony Barber. Please make cheques payable to him and not the BMG as it causes confusion with his bank! Back numbers are available (includes photocopies of some volumes) price £25.00 for the complete run plus postage. Individual volumes by arrangement.

It is with regret that I have to announce that Colin Fairhurst died in January. He was a founder member of the BMG. There should be an obituary in the next bulletin.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Bulletin has now reached volume 10. None of us in the days when we restarted it in 1985 knew whether we could keep it going. If we are to reach volume 20 we need articles, long or short, on topics relating to British myriapods, those of adjacent areas of Europe or those likely to be of interest to British workers. We can use single paragraph reports in "Miscellanea". We can also arrange for typing up of handwritten work so please do not feel that material has to be in "camera ready" format. Please send to the editors, Helen Read & Tony Barber.

Volume 11 should be out about Easter 1995. Proposed topics include the new Scottish centipede and millipedes of southern England.

have not collected on the island nor do I know of other recent collections. The list of species of which I am aware is:

Jersey

<i>P. angustus</i>	WL	<i>H. subterraneus</i>	EB
<i>P. fuscus</i>	EB	<i>H. submarina</i>	EB
<i>O. sabulosus</i>	EB, WL	<i>L. forficatus</i>	EB
<i>L. belgicus</i>	WL	<i>L. pilicornis</i>	EB
<i>C. latestriatus</i>	EB, WL	<i>L. calcaratus</i>	WL
<i>C. punctatus</i>	WL	<i>L. microps</i>	WL
<i>L. fulvicornis</i>	WL	<i>Cryptops</i> sp.	EB
		<i>S. coleoptrata</i>	various

APPEAL FOR MORE RECORDS

Biogeographically the islands are interesting and the species present probably represent a series of colonisations or introductions since the end of the last ice age and their separation from France. It would be valuable to have more information.

I am intending to put together a review paper on the myriapod fauna of the islands as at present known and would welcome help:

1. Any records or specimens from any of the Channel Islands.
2. Anyone visiting the islands (especially, but not exclusively those other than Guernsey), any specimens collected would be valuable.
3. Information relating to published or unpublished sources not outlined above, collections, etc.
4. Any records, specimens, information relating to species in adjacent

British Myriapod Group

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NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER.
This will be out in the autumn,
material for inclusion should reach
R.E.J. by August 31st as I shall be
away in Australia in September.

Supplies of records cards and additional copies of the British Myriapod Group Newsletter can be obtained from the Biological Records Centre (BRC). Changes of address should be notified to Dick Jones or BRC. If you no longer wish to receive the BMG Newsletter, please notify BRC in writing.

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