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**CENTIPEDE RECORDS OBTAINED ON THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION TO IRELAND,
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984**

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Very little work has been done on the centipede fauna of Ireland since about 1920. Barber (1985) summarises our knowledge to date of the Irish fauna and states that only four people have made collections in the last ten years and that the records obtained only come from 91 10 km. squares. The areas which are most neglected are stated as being the north, north-west and south of Ireland. From the species point of view only 20 species are recorded and Barber comments on unrecorded species which are likely to occur. Here then, is an area particularly deserving of our attentions.

In contrast, the non-marine mollusc fauna of Ireland is quite well known with much of the country having been comprehensively surveyed. This level of coverage has been obtained to a fair extent by expeditions of small parties of experienced Conchological Society field recorders. On two of the most recent expeditions in September 1977 and April 1982 Mrs. E.B. Rands and Mrs. M. Fogan also made collections of certain invertebrate groups (including centipedes) and it is these that account for 74 of the 10 km. squares with recent records noted by Barber (the collections were not made by the present author as stated therein - he only requested their collection and identified them). A small party of three comprising the author and the two above-mentioned conchologists, made an expedition to Waterford and Cork in the south of Ireland between 19th September and 2nd October, 1984 in order to obtain further mollusc records from the area in squares either lacking records or from those which were obviously under-recorded. Whilst studying the molluscs many other groups of cryptic invertebrates occurring in similar habitats to the molluscs were also recorded. This paper is the first in a series to place the results of this expedition on record.

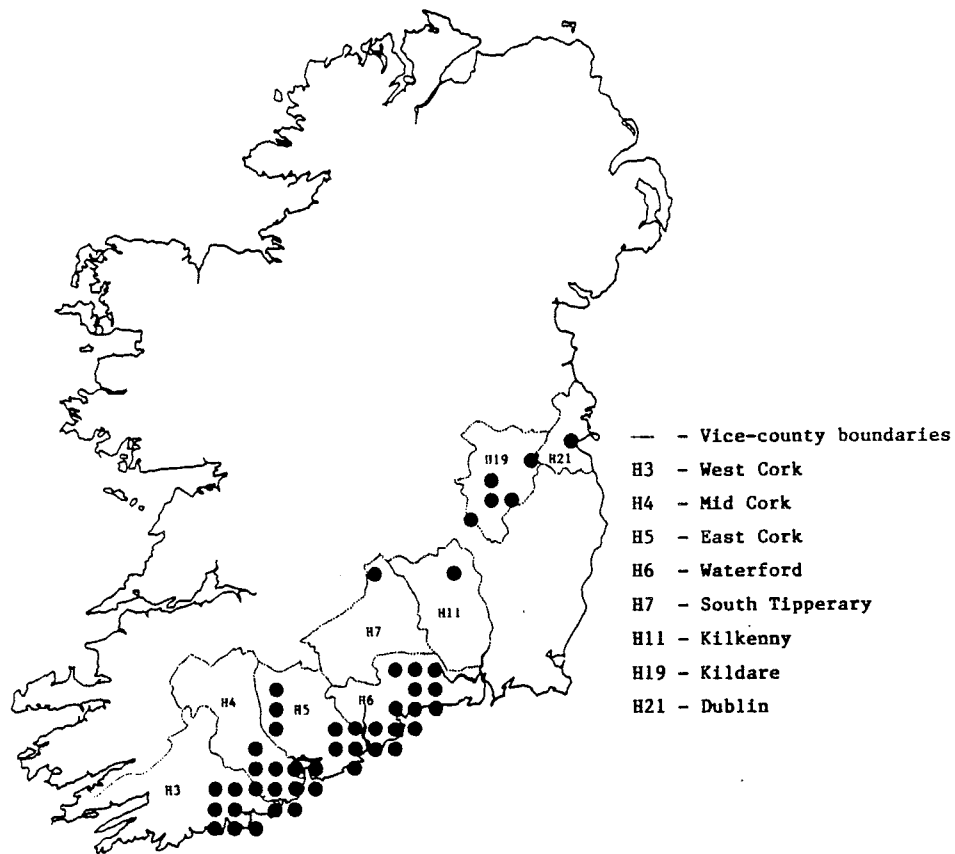


Figure 1. MAP SHOWING THE 10 KM. SQUARES SURVEYED, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984.

The main recording area comprised most of Waterford (vice-county H6), the southern half of Mid and East Cork (H4 and H5) and the south-east corner of West Cork (H3). Records were also obtained on the journeys between the main recording area and Dublin (see fig. 1). In all, 47 10 km. squares were studied and sixteen species of centipede found, two of which were new Irish records. A total of 179 10 km. records was obtained; details are given in table 1. These records also include 40 new vice-county records.

Each species will now be dealt with separately below:

Haplophilus subterraneus According to Barber (1985) there is only one recent record (from Dublin) although it has since been recorded from Sligo (vice-county H28) by Mr. D. Cotton (Barber, pers. comm. 1985). During the present survey it was found at 14 sites, all but two of which were from under rocks, etc. on roadsides. It was also found once under stones near the top of a rocky beach and once under rocks at the base of a churchyard wall. In all 10 males

were found with 79 pairs of legs; two males with 81 pairs; 4 females with 79 pairs; 5 females with 81 pairs; 3 females with 83 pairs and one female with 89 pairs. The female with 89 pairs of legs is well outside the range of 79-83 for British material given by Eason (1964) but is just within that for French material given by Brolemann (1930).

New vice-county records: H3, H5 and H6.

Schendyla nemorensis This common species was widely recorded in the past but there seem to be very few recent records. It was found at 14 sites during the present survey, mostly from under rocks and in soil on roadside verges, but also once from under rocks next to an estuarine stream and twice in soil on top of vegetated roadside walls.

New vice-county records: H3, H4, H5 and H6.

Strigamia crassipes This rather uncommon centipede was recorded from widely scattered localities in Ireland in the past but there appears to be no recent records. It was found at two sites as follows:

X249923. Under rocks on disturbed waste ground next to garage, about 1 mile S.W. of Dungarvan, Co. Waterford (23-9-1984).
1 female with 51 pairs of legs.

X125817. In leaf/twig litter under roadside blackthorn hedge, 1½ miles S. of Clashmore, Co. Waterford (25-9-1984). 1
female with 51 pairs of legs.

New vice-county record: H6.

Strigamia maritima This is a common littoral centipede which occurs at about H.W.M. under rocks mostly on a sandy/clayey substrate or in cracks on rocky outcrops or cliffs. It was found at 14 sites and collected specimens were found to have the following leg counts: 19 males with 47 pairs; 8 males with 49 pairs; 28 females with 49 pairs; 12 females with 51 pairs and 1 female with 53 pairs. The female with 53 pairs is just outside the range given by Eason (1964) but within that of Brolemann (1930). The collected specimens show a marked preponderance of females over males.

New vice-county records: H4, H5 and H6.

Geophilus electricus This is a rather rare species which had been recorded from scattered localities although there is only one recent record. Five specimens were found as follows:

- S682937. Under granite rock next to roadside shrine, Athy, Co. Kildare (19-9-1984 - E.B.R.). 1 female with 71 pairs of legs.
- S244164. Under rock at base of roadside dry stone wall, just E.N.E. of Glendalough, Co. Waterford (22-9-1984). 1 female with 71 pairs of legs.
- W888579. Under rock near old field wall, 3/4 mile E.S.E. of Gyleen, C. Cork (24-9-1985 - M.F.). 1 male with 67 pairs of legs.
- W746566. Under rock under beech trees at base of churchyard wall, Minane Bridge, Co. Cork (26-9-1984). 1 juvenile with 71 pairs of legs.
- W546687. Under piece of concrete beneath beech tree on roadside waste ground, Killumney, 3/4 mile S. of Ovens, Co. Cork (28-9-1984 - M.F.). 1 male with 65 pairs of legs.

New vice-county records: H4, H5, H6 and H19.

Geophilus osquidatum One specimen of this rare centipede was found:

- W730625. Under large rock at edge of car park, Carrigaline, Co. Cork (26-9-1984). 1 female with 59 pairs of legs.

The specimen was instantly obvious in the field because the posterior 2/3 of the body had a bright phosphorescent greenish-yellow colour. This is the first time Geophilus osquidatum has been recorded from Ireland.

New vice-county record: H4.

Geophilus insculptus This widely recorded and not uncommon species was only found on three occasions:

- S385142. In soil at base of wall surrounding a small area of waste ground, Clonea, Co. Waterford (22-9-1984). 1 male with 47 pairs and 1 female with 51 pairs of legs.
- S112671. In soil under grass on roadside dry stone wall, Loughmore, Co. Tipperary (2-10-1984). 1 female with 51 pairs of legs and 1 juvenile.
- N727125. Under rock on top of roadside grassy bank, Kildare, Co. Kildare (2-10-1984). 1 female with 51 pairs of legs.

It is worth noting that only one of these sites was in the main survey area and that the species is obviously rare there.

New vice-county records: H6, H16 and H19.

Necrophloeophagus longicornis This is the most recorded geophilomorph in Ireland and was found at 14 sites during the present survey. The main habitat was either in soil or under rocks on roadside verges, but it was twice found associated with the littoral woodlouse Ligia oceanica under rocks at the top of beaches. Only 12 specimens were retained and these comprised: 2 males with 51 pairs; 8 females with 53 pairs and 2 females with 55 pairs of legs. It would seem that females far outnumber males.
New vice-county records: H5, H6 and H19.

Brachygeophilus truncorum This is generally a common and widely distributed species but it was only found at three sites and would thus appear to be uncommon in the area studied. The habitats were under bark of a roadside elm log; in roadside beech leaf litter and under a rock at the top of saltmarsh mud associated with the littoral centipede Strigamia maritima.
New vice-county record: H6.

Cryptops hortensis This common species has only been recorded previously from six vice-counties in Ireland, three of these being numbers H1-3 in the S.W. corner. This S.W. pattern was evident during the present survey where 9 of the 10 sites come from West and Mid Cork. All specimens came from under rocks on roadside verges.
New vice-county records: H4 and H6.

Cryptops parisi This is a rare species in England occurring in scattered synanthropic sites, although more common in parts of S.W. England. It is here recorded from Ireland for the first time and was found at three sites:
W744603. Under rock near roadside stream, 1½ miles S.E. of Carrigaline, Co. Cork (26-9-1984). 1 specimen.
W634622. Under rock on roadside (L68) verge, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork (27-9-1984 - E.B.R.). 1 specimen.

W647997. Under concrete slab by roadside near bridge over River Blackwater, Killavullen, Co. Cork (29-9-1984 - E.B.R.).
1 specimen.

New vice-county records: H4 and H5.

Lithobius variegatus This common species was found at 37 sites during the present survey. Most of these were from beneath rocks, pieces of wood, etc. on roadside verges, but it was also found on five occasions in leaf litter and three times under the bark of elm or spruce logs. As many males as females were found - 33 of each. It is worth noting that all specimens seemed to be typical with no over-large animals being found (i.e. none as large as the continental form of the species, L. rubriceps).

New vice-county records: H5 and H6.

Lithobius forficatus This proved to be the most common centipede and was found in two-thirds of the squares surveyed. Of the 41 site records, 25 were from under rocks, pieces of wood, etc. on roadside verges. In addition, farmyard records totalled 5 and it was found under rocks at about H.W.M. at the top of beaches on 4 occasions. It was associated with the preceeding species at 13 sites.

New vice-county records: H4 and H5.

Lithobius melanops This is a widespread medium-sized Lithobius and was found at 14 sites. Three of these were from amongst moss on roadside walls, three from under bark of roadside elm logs and two from under rocks at the top of beaches. Collected material comprised 9 males and 8 females.

New vice-county records: H4, H5 and H6.

Lithobius microps This very common and distinctive little species was found at 24 sites, most of which were from under rocks, etc. or in soil on roadside verges.

New vice-county records: H4, H5 and H6.

Lamycetes fulvicornis This is an uncommon, although widely distributed species, and was only found at six sites as follows:

W869658. Under rock on roadside waste ground near top of beach, Rostellan, Co. Cork (24-9-1984). One female.

- W634622. Under rock on roadside (L68) verge, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork (27-9-1984). One female.
- W658583. Under rock on roadside (L42) bank, 1 mile E. of Ballymartle, Co. Cork (27-9-1984). One female.
- W694515. In damp grass cuttings at base of roadside wall, Ballinclashet, 1 3/4 miles W.S.W. of Nohaval, Co. Cork (27-9-1984). Three females.
- W549702. Under stone on roadside verge, Ovens, Co. Cork (28-9-1984). One female.
- W393394. Under rock on landward side of roadside sea wall of estuary, 1 1/4 miles S.S.E. of Clonakilty, Co. Cork (1-10-1984). One female.
- New vice-county records: H3, H4 and H5.

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