

REPORT ON THE 2004 BMIG MEETING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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INTRODUCTION

The annual field meeting for 2004 was based at Green Park, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire just at the top of the scarp slope of the Chilterns. Collecting was carried out on the chalk escarpment at several places, also on the undulating dip slope and on the contrasting clayey soils of the Vale of Aylesbury. A range of habitats were visited including woodland, chalk grassland, churchyards and also riverside.

MILLIPEDES

The highlight of the weekend was the find of *Adenomeris* at Cobbler's pits by John Harper and Paul Richards and subsequently also at Wendover woods. This genus had not previously been found on the British mainland but had been recorded from Ireland. At the time the participants of the field meeting were not completely certain of the species but it was subsequently confirmed as *A. gibbosa* (as the Irish specimens) by J.P. Mauriès of the Paris museum. He also confirmed the specimens of *Stygioglomeris crinata* found with it at Cobbler's pits. This constitutes the first record of the latter species for VC24.

Another new species for the county was *Leptoiulus kervillei*, a single female of which was found, also by John Harper but this time from Lower Wichenden. John also found an ambiguous specimen from Green Park which may be this species so it is definitely worth looking out for in the future.

Cylindroiulus parisorum is already known from VC24 and therefore its discovery at Cuddington only produced a new 10km square record. However, it is still an uncommon species and the area immediately to the north and west of London is clearly a stronghold for the species in Britain. As it is recorded more frequently from Britain than anywhere else in Europe, then the populations in Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties are of international importance.

CENTIPEDES

Geophilus linearis (formerly known as *Clinopodes linearis*) seems to be largely, if not entirely synanthropic in Britain. It is quite widespread, but unpredictably found in urban and garden sites in the greater London and south east of England. It was only found in Penn Wood during the weekend. *Stigmatogaster subterraneus* (formerly *Haplophilus subterraneus*) is also synanthropic in the south east but is more widespread and was found several times during the field weekend. It is a common rural species of the south west. *Henia brevis*, another synanthrope was seen twice, from Green Park itself and from a churchyard at Newport Pagnell. Interestingly, *Geophilus carpophagus* (s.s.) was found in 4 locations, all churchyards whilst *Geasoni* occurred 8 times, none from such sites.

Of the other geophilomorphs, *Geophilus flavus* (*Necrophloeophagus flavus*) was found in just over half of the sites examined and seems to be the commonest larger geophilid, *Geophilus truncorum* (*Brachygeophilus truncorum*) from 7 locations and *Geophilus insculptus* from only 3. *Schendyla nemorensis*, comparable in size to *G.truncorum* also occurred 7 times whilst *Strigamia accuminata* (but not *S.crassipes*) was seen in four collections.

The large *Cryptops*, *C.anomalans* was found twice, on both occasions in churchyards where the smaller *C.hortensis* was also seen. The latter also occurred a further six times.

As far as the lithobiomorphs are concerned, *Lithobius forficatus* (19 records), *L.variegatus* (13), *L.melanops* (10) and *L.microps* (20) were widespread. There are four records of *L.crassipes*, none of which are from churchyards; this is a common species in eastern England but very patchy in the south-east. *L.muticus*, found twice, is typically a species of woodland, mostly in SE England but has been found elsewhere.

“Missing” from the collections, apart from generally rare or regional/localised species, we have *Geophilus electricus* and *Cryptops parisi* which are both mostly synanthropic, *Schendyla dentata* (*Brachyschendyla dentata*) (despite all the churchyards examined), *Lamyctes fulvicornis* (mostly found in the autumn), *Lithobius calcaratus* and *L. borealis*.

WOODLICE

The species list is quite short with just 12 species of woodlice where recorded. This is primarily due to lack of recording effort for woodlice. *Ligidium hypnorum* proved to be widespread within the ancient woodlands examined. Although most numerous in wet clay-vale woodlands, it was also found sparingly amongst moss in north facing Chiltern woodlands. *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggi* proved to be common, occurring just about anywhere that ant nests were found. *Cylisticus convexus* (which seems to be scarce in Bucks) was found at Green Park and *Porcellio spinicornis* (which is probably common in the area) was found on a churchyard wall.

MILLIPEDES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	16	17	18
<i>Adenomeris gibbosa</i>			x												
<i>Allaiulus nitidus</i>	x				x									x	x
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	x													x	
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x					x	
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	x		x												
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>	x			x		x	x								x
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>			x												x
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	x	x	x			x	x		x					x	
<i>Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			
<i>Cylindroiulus parisiiorum</i>															
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
<i>Julus scandinavius</i>	x														
<i>Leptoiulus kervillei</i>															
<i>Macrosterodesmus pallicola</i>	x		x												
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>	x		x												
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>	x					x				x					
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>			x												
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>	x		x												
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	x						x								
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>	x			x											
<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>	x		x												
<i>Polydesmus gallicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x
<i>Polydesmus inconstans</i>	x														
<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>														x	
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>															
<i>Stygioglomeris crinata</i>			x												
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Collectors	SG PR	TB	JH	SG	SG	SG	SG	HR	HR	SG	HR	PR	HR	SG	SG
	TB	JH	PR	PL	PL	PL	PL				PL			TB	PL

MILLIPEDES	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Adenomeris gibbosa</i>			x										
<i>Allaiulus nitidus</i>													
<i>Archiboreoilus pallidus</i>													
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>		x		x		x		x		x			x
<i>Boreoilus tenuis</i>													
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>		x		x		x		x		x			x
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>									x				
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>				x									
<i>Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus</i>	x	x		x		x			x				
<i>Cylindroiulus parisiiorum</i>								x					
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	x	x	x	x		x		x		x		x	x
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>		x	x										x
<i>Julus scandinavius</i>												x	
<i>Leptoiulus kervillei</i>							f						
<i>Macrosternodesmus pallicola</i>	x		x										
<i>Melogona scutellare</i>													
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>													
<i>Nemasoma varicorne</i>												x	x
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>			x							x			
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	x			x		x		x				x	
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>													
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>													
<i>Polydesmus denticulatus</i>													
<i>Polydesmus gallicus</i>						x		x		x		x	
<i>Polydesmus inconstans</i>													
<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>													
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>		x					x	x				x	
<i>Stygioglomeris crinata</i>													
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Collectors	HR	HR	HR	JH	JH	SG	SG	JH	JH	JH	JH	SG	TB
	TB	TB	JH	TB	PL	PL	PL					PL	PL

CENTIPEDES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Cryptops anomalans</i>											x			x			
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	x			x		x	x				x			x		x	
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>					x						x						
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>				x		x	x					x					x
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x	x						x		x	x
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>			x													x	x
<i>Geophilus linearis</i>																x	x
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>				x		x	x				x						x
<i>Henia brevis</i>	x																
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>															x		
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x				x	x	x
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	x			x	x	x	x				x				x		
<i>Lithobius microps</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x		x	x	x
<i>Lithobius muticus</i>												x					x
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x				x		x
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	x										x			x			x
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>	x																
<i>Stigmatogaster subterraneus</i>	x	x			x				x	x				x		x	x
Collectors	PR SG JH TB	TB	PR JH	SG JH	SG PL	SG PL	SG PL	HR TB	TB	HR TB	SG PL	HR TB	HR TB	SG PL	SG PL	HR TB	HR TB

CENTIPEDES	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Cryptops anomalans</i>											
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>						x				x	
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i>				x							
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>					x			x			
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>									x		
<i>Geophilus linearis</i>											
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>					x						
<i>Henia brevis</i>				x							
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>					x					x	
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>				x					x		
<i>Lithobius microps</i>	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
<i>Lithobius muticus</i>											
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>					x				x	x	x
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>	x								x		
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>					x						
<i>Stigmatogaster subterraneus</i>	x	x	x	x				x			
Collectors	HR TB	JH	JH	SG JH	SG PL	JH	JH	JH	JH	SG PL	TB

WOODLICE	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>	x			x	x		x									x		
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x
<i>Cylisticus convexus</i>																		
<i>Haplophthalmus dannicus</i>	x										x							
<i>Ligidium hypnorum</i>			x		x	x												x
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x			x	x	x
<i>Platyarthus hoffmansegii</i>	x			x	x					x						x	x	x
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>																		
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>	x	x							x									
Collectors	SG	JH	SG	SG	SG	SG	HR	HR	HR	SG	HR	PR	DC	GC	HR	SG	SG	HR
	PR	PR	PL	PL	PL	PL	DG	DG	PL	DG	DG	GC	GC	PL	PL	PL	PL	
	JH			GC	GC		VS		DC	DC	VS							
				VS	VS				SG	SG								
									VS	VS								

WOODLICE	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>				x						
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Cylisticus convexus</i>								x		
<i>Haplophthalmus dannicus</i>										
<i>Ligidium hypnorum</i>										
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Platyarthus hoffmansegii</i>				x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>				x						
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>				x						
Collectors	HR	HR	JH	SG	SG	JH	JH	JH	JH	SG
	JH			PL	PL					PL

LOCATIONS

1. Green Park Aston Clinton, SP885 114, 15-18.04.04
2. Aylesbury Church, SP817138, 15.4.04
3. Cobblers Pits, Aston Clinton, SP886 112, 14.4.04
4. Hodgemoor Woods, SU968938, 16.4.04
5. Hughenden Manor Churchyard, SU864 954, 16.4.04
6. Millfield Wood, SU871 954, 16.4.04
7. Northmoor Hill, TQ034891, 16.4.04
8. Bacomb Hill, SP863 073, 16.4.04
9. Ellesborough Church, SP837 067, 16.4.04
10. Little Kimble Church, SP827 064, 16.4.04
11. Denham Churchyard, TQ042869, 16.4.04
12. Pulpit Hill, SP833 046, 16.4.04
13. Ashridge car park, 42/96 14, 16.4.04
14. Ragpits, Aston, Clinton, SP887107, 16.4.04
15. Railway Centre, Quainton SP ,16.4.04
16. Cholesbury Common, SP947 069, 17.4.04
17. Newton Longville Churchyard, SP847314, 17.4.04
18. Pilch Field, SP746321, 17.4.04
19. Penn Street Church, SU 923 962, 17.4.04
20. Penn Wood, SU922 962, 17.4.04
21. Wendover Woods, SP887 107, 17.4.04
22. Upper Wichenden Churchyard, SP745 145, 17.4.04
23. Lower Wichenden Churchyard, SP732 122, 17.4.04
24. Newport Pagnell Churchyard, SP878 439, 17.4.04
25. Howe Park Wood, SP833 344, 17.4.04
26. Banks of River Thames, Cuddington-Chearsley., SP728 114, 17.4.04
27. Cuddington Churchyard, SP734 113, 17.4.04
28. Roadside stones & lawn, Alwyn Lawn, Stone, Aylesbury, SP789 116, 17.4.04
29. Wood, Alwyn Lawn, Stone, Aylesbury, SP787 114, 17.4.04
30. Little Linford Wood, SP 832 455, 17.4.04
31. Hawridge Common, SP949 063, 17.4.04

COLLECTORS

Tony Barber (TB)	Paul Lee (PL)
Dawn Collis (DC)	Helen Read (HR)
Glynn Collis (GC)	Paul Richards (PR)
Steve Gregory (SG)	Valerie Standen (VS)
John Harper (JH)	