

THE MYRIAPOD & TERRESTRIAL ISOPOD PAPERS OF A. RANDELL JACKSON

A. D. Barber

Rathgar, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0BD, UK.

E-mail: abarber159@btinternet.com



Born in 1877 in Southport, Lancashire, Arthur Randell Jackson pursued his scientific and medical studies at the University of Liverpool, qualifying in 1900 and practising medicine whilst continuing his studies in dentistry and medicine and was awarded doctorate in 1909 & 1911. He served as a medical officer in France and Belgium during the First World War and returned to civilian practice in 1919. He died at Chester in 1939.

His primary zoological interest was in spiders, publishing an account of the Araneida of Port Erin and District in 1899 and working on spiders of the British Isles, of arctic regions (Spitzbergen, Greenland, etc) and elsewhere. His last paper was a 1938 report on Arctic Spiders obtained in 1933-36.

In 1910 in his report *On Some Arthropods observed in 1909* he included records for one centipede (*Henicops fulvicornis*), one millipede (*Polydesmus gallicus*), a symphylan (*Scolopendrella notacantha*) and two exotic woodlice (*Philoscia patiencei* and *Angara lenta*) from a nursery at Chester. This was the first British record of *Angara lenta*, now known as *Agabiformius lentus*. The paper was the first of a short series of papers, published in the *Lancashire Naturalist* (later the *Lancashire and Cheshire Naturalist*) between 1909 and 1916 containing myriapod data. One of these, in 1914, was specifically a preliminary list of the Myriapoda of the Chester district in which he recorded 17 centipede, 20 millipede and 7 symphylan species. Three of these papers (1910, 1913 and 1916) also contained reports of terrestrial isopods. A list of these publications is given below.

In his 1916 paper he remarks that a number of myriapods had been sent to him for identification and goes on to comment that “Owing to affairs on the Continent it has been impossible to get most of these identified”. His spider papers were resumed in 1922.

Apart from the specific interest of Randell Jackson’s own papers, his great legacy to myriapod studies was the interest he stimulated in two other workers, H.K. and S.G.Brade-Birks. BB’s first appointment was as curate at Darwen and it was here that he and his then fiancée Dr Hilda Brade first took up the study of Myriapoda, helped and encouraged by Randell Jackson.

In the 1916 paper, Randell Jackson continues “Up to the present we have never had in Britain a worker who really specialized in this group, and we now feel the want of one very much. Miss H.K.Brade, of Manchester, and the Revd. S. Graham Birks, of Darwen, are taking up the group energetically, and I hope that eventually they will be able to fill this gap.”

The first of the Brade & Birks’ “Notes on Myriapoda” appeared in the *Lancashire & Cheshire Naturalist* for June 1916 describing a new variety of *Chordeumella scutellare*. In their seventh, in 1917, they named *Iackstoneuma bradae* (now *Brachychaeteuma bradae*) “in honour of our gallant friend, Captain A. Randell Jackson, M.C., M.D., D.Sc., R.A.M.C., of Chester, to whom we owe our introduction to this engrossing branch of zoological science.” The last of the series, No 36, appeared in 1939

A. Randell Jackson publications containing references to myriapods & terrestrial isopods:

- 1910 - On Some Arthropods observed in 1909. *Lancs.Nat.(NS)* **3**: 17 - 22, 46-51.
- 1913 - On some Arthropods observed in 1911 and 1912. *Lancs.Nat.* **5**: 440-444.
- 1914 - A preliminary list of the Myriapoda of the Chester district. *Lancs.Nat.* **6**: 450-458.
- 1915 - Notes on the collection and preservation of Myriapoda. *Lancs.Chesh.Nat.* **7**: 101-102.
- 1915 - On some Arachnids and Myriapods observed in 1914. *Lancs.Chesh.Nat.* **7**: 433-437.
- 1916 - On Some Arthropods observed in 1915. *Lancs.Chesh.Nat.* **8**: 355-364, 391-392.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Ian Wallace of National Museums Liverpool who obtained for me photocopies of several of the Randell Jackson papers not available on the internet and to Paul Harding for comments on the terrestrial isopods. Also to acknowledge the website of GIA - Grupo Iberico de Arachnologia for their page *Biografias Arthur Randell Jackson* (www.sea-entomologia.org/gia/biografia_jackson.html) from which the photograph, biographical details and information regarding his arachnid papers were obtained.

OTHER REFERENCES

- Brade,H.K & Birks, S.G. (1916) Notes on Myriapoda – 1 *Chordeumella scutellare* var *brölemanni* nov. *Lancs.Chesh.Nat.* **9**: 49-55.
- Brade-Birks,H.K & Brade-Birks, S.G. (1917) Notes on Myriapoda – VII. A new member of the AscospERMOMORPHA (*Jacksoneuma bradae*, gen. et sp. nov.). *J.Zool.Res.* **2**: 135-149.
- Brade-Birks, S.G. (1939). Notes on Myriapoda XXXVI, Sources for description and illustration of the British fauna. *J. S.E.Agric.Coll.Wye* **44**: 156-179.