

## EDITORIAL

Looking through some papers recently I found the volume containing the papers read at the first International Myriapod Congress in Paris in 1968. Britain was represented amongst others by Gordon Blower, Ted Eason and Colin Fairhurst, all sadly no longer with us. Amongst other familiar or unfamiliar names we also find Jean-Marie Demange (France), Otto Kraus (Germany) and Stefan Negrea (Romania) who, along with Rowland Shelly (USA) and Wolfram Dunger (Germany), are remembered in this volume. From the congress emerged the Centre International de Myriapodologie and the succession of international congresses which continue to this day.

In 1970 Gordon Blower, Colin Fairhurst and John Lewis (who had also been at the first congress) organised a meeting in North Devon of people interested in myriapods which led to the formation of the then British Myriapod Group and the establishment of centipede and millipede recording schemes. After a second meeting the following year in the English-Welsh Borders, a third meeting was subsumed in the second international congress which took place in Manchester in 1972. For this, Gordon Blower prepared a 48-page duplicated *Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group* Volume 1. Although active recording continued there were no more BMG meetings in the next few years and Volume 2 of the *Bulletin* did not appear. Indeed Volume 1 appeared in one booksellers list as “only volume published”. However, thanks to the efforts of Gordon Blower and Ron Daniel, a BMG meeting was organised at the then Plymouth Polytechnic in 1982, then a joint one with BISG in 1983. The *Bulletin* was finally revived in 1985.

Parallel to and slightly preceding BMG, new interest in woodlice and water-lice studies led to the formation of the British Isopod Study Group of which Steve Sutton and Paul Harding were significant members. BISG were interested in a recording system which included habitat as well as geographical data and working with Colin Fairhurst and Gordon Blower of BMG produced the first version of a record “card” which led to the BRC record cards and their various categories of habitat information.

BISG & BMG continued with joint field meetings, now annually, and for several years a sister and parallel publication to the BMG *Bulletin*, *Isopoda*, was published by Steve Hopkin. In 2000, the inevitable fusion of the two organisations took place and the British Myriapod & Isopod Group (BMIG) was inaugurated. The 2001 volume of the *Bulletin* (Volume 17), renamed the *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group* was published containing articles on both myriapods & woodlice. Volume 18 reported the death of Gordon Blower & its editorial commented that our best memorial to him was to keep BMIG & the *Bulletin* going for many years to come. As evidenced by this issue, it still continues, published approximately annually, now on-line, and this is Volume 31, 34 years since its revival in 1982 and 47 years since Volume 1 appeared. Continuing to be committed to publishing reports on the British & Irish myriapod and isopod fauna and items of interest to British & Irish workers, each volume tends to have a different emphasis from the last and each has a diversity of articles relating to these animals.

In this volume, as well as the obituaries already referred to, we have a spectrum of papers reflecting our interests in the myriapod & terrestrial isopod groups. In terms of the isopods are accounts of woodlice new to the Channel Islands (*Chaetophiloscia cellaria*), to North Wales, to Ireland (*Philoscia affinis*) and to Belarus (*Armadillidium pulchellum*). Representing millipede interests we have reports on particular species (*Cylindroiulus sagittarius*, *Geoglomeris*), on fossil millipedes and on a fungus parasite. Centipede reports cover the phenomenon of filial cannibalism in *Scolopendra cingulata* in Spain and issues involved in distinguishing the two British centipedes *Lithobius melanops* and *L. tricuspis*.

Volume 1 had reports on the first two BMG field meetings and we try to continue to include such reports as representing a focus on a specific area and, as in that volume we include one here, this time

on the 2016 Juniper Hall gathering. Inevitably there is always a slight (or longer) delay in getting these written and bringing them together for the three groups with appropriate comments and we would encourage everyone who attends and collects material to send in their own reports of what they found. So please, if you were at the Morecambe, Longtown or Newton Stewart meetings, can you get your reports in as soon as you can. At the same time, we are, as always, looking for articles for the next *Bulletin* – and subsequent ones, of course!