

Editorial for Bulletin 33 (2021)

The Bulletin this year includes another bumper crop of new species for the UK and our various individual countries. Remarkably this includes what appears to be three new millipedes to science to add to the fauna of south Wales. We hope all will be eventually be formally described elsewhere, but the article here by Christian Owen and Steve Gregory should enable them to be recognised should they be found in the meantime. Trapping in a public garden in Scotland has also added two new species to the UK, the Chordeumatid *Orthochordeumella pallida* and another *Cylindroiulus* originating from the Iberian peninsula, *C. dahli*, described here by Mike Davidson. ‘In exchange’ we can also report news that the familiar British woodlouse species, *Philoscia muscorum*, has been found in Iberia. To complete the suite in terms of new millipedes is *Brachyiulus lusitanus* from the Eden project, which was first recorded from a single specimen some years ago but has been re-found several times since, both outside and in the Mediterranean biome, so worth checking *Brachyiulus* in the future. The Eden project is also the location for a new woodlouse to the British fauna, *Porcellionides sexfasciatus*.

The last couple of years may not have added any centipedes to the British list but Tony Barber may feel grateful for that as he continues to make good progress on the atlas and we look forward to the completed publication soon.

There has quite a tranche of BMIG news to celebrate this year too, despite the cancellation of our annual field meeting in the spring due to the COVID situation and postponement of the AGM until November. The AGM was carried out online but we were still able to celebrate over 50 years of work on centipedes by John Lewis, although perhaps not quite in the way we had anticipated. John was presented (virtually!) with a BMIG ‘life-time achievement’ award in appreciation of many years dedicated to centipedes, especially the Scolopendromorpha. In a British context John, along with Gordon Blower and Colin Fairhurst, was one of the initiators of the, then, British Myriapod Group and chose the location for the Group’s first ever field meeting (BMG Bulletin 1:1 (1972)). John’s important work has been well recognised worldwide by those working on centipedes who regularly seek him out to discuss aspects of taxonomy and ecology. We feel privileged to have had his attendance at field meetings as his company always lifts the mood in the room as well as being enlightening scientifically.

A new venture for BMIG, formally adopted at the AGM, is the inclusion of the Intertidal Isopod Recording Scheme to our fold. Despite the initial intention to include this group many years ago this never became a reality. We are pleased that Warren Maguire approached us with a request to re-establish the group under the BMIG umbrella and this has now been formally adopted. Those of us with more terrestrial interests look forward to learning more about this group in the future. Warren is also helping expand the BMIG reach on social media via Twitter.

Finally, at the AGM we also gave thanks to our long-standing Chairman and millipede scheme organiser, Paul Lee, who stood down from both roles. Paul took over running the Millipede Scheme in 1998 being just the 4th organiser, his predecessors being Colin Fairhurst, Doug Richardson and Dick Jones. His work on the scheme culminated with the publication of the atlas in 2006, which was one of the first to include colour pictures of each species. Paul was elected as Chairman of BMIG in April 2010, following on from Eric Philp, and has steered BMIG through various changes over the years. We wish Paul well, thank him for many years of service to our organisation, and hope that he will remain as involved in BMIG and the recording schemes as his health allows.

Looking forward, we have already made the decision not to hold a field meeting in spring 2021 but are intending to have a day of talks online instead (on 10th April). On the positive side this means that those who might not normally be able to attend will be able to do so. By the time you are reading this we may already have had our planned day of talks on line.