A DICHTOMOUS KEY TO THE GEOPHILOMORPH CENTIPEDES OF BRITAIN.

A. N. Keay

37 Merrymeet, Woodmansterne, Surrey, SM7 3HX

This key includes all the geophilomorphs currently known from the British Isles. Immature specimens may be difficult in some cases. Some species of Geophilus have 0, 1 or 2 coxal pores in the early stages thus an additional option has been inserted at 12 to cover this. In the case of Brachygeophilus and the Schendylidae there may be only one such pore on each side.

1a Coxal pores distributed over the entire surface or at least the ventral surface of the coxae of the last pair of legs..........................2
1b Coxal pores concentrated along the edge of the adjacent metasternite or opening into pits adjacent to the metasternite..........................8

2a Coxal pores very numerous and distributed over both the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the coxae.......................................................3
2b Coxal pores less numerous and distributed over the ventral surface of the coxae only.................................................................6

3a Head broader than long. With more than 73 pairs of legs...........................4
3b Head longer than broad. with fewer than 51 pairs of legs..........................5

4a With 91 or more pairs of legs. Large transverse, oval fossae between sternites 40 and 49. Rare species from a single site in Cornwall.........Nesoporogaster brevior
4b With 73 to 85 pairs of legs. Lacking fossae between sternites 40 and 49. Common in south and south-west, less so in north..............Haplophilus subterraneus

5a With terminal claws on last pair of legs. Forcipules with smooth concavity and with a prominent basal node. Rare, usually coastal.........Pachymerygium ferrugineum
5b Lacking terminal claws on last pair of legs. Forcipules with a crenulate concavity and lacking a basal node. Rare, a hot house species.....Dicellophilus carniolensis

6a The pleurites of the last trunk segment distinct from the adjacent pretergite. Littoral species..............................................................Strigamia maritima
6b The pleurites of the last trunk segment fused together with the adjacent pretergite..............................................................................7

7a With 49 to 53 pairs of legs. Sternites with a distinct median, longitudinal cleft..................................................Strigamia crassipes
7b With 37 to 41 pairs of legs. Sternites lacking a media cleft.........Strigamia acuminata
8a Head broader than long. The forcipular tergite much the same breadth anteriorly as posteriorly, with strongly convex lateral borders...........................................9
8b Head longer than broad. The forcipular tergite broader posteriorly than anteriorly, with almost straight lateral borders...........................................10

9a With 61 to 75 pairs of legs. Large stout species with elliptical pore groups on the sternites. Dorsal surface of trunk usually greenish-grey. Southern species, coastal or synanthropic inland...........................................Henia vesuviana
9b With 53 to 57 pairs of legs. Small, slender species with lanceolate pore groups on the sternites. Southern species usually synanthropic...........................................Henia brevis

10a With 63 to 79 pairs of legs. Sternal pore groups distinct on anterior segments. Coxal pores in rosettes and opening into pits adjacent to the meta-sternite (requires clearing to see this detail)...........................................Clinopodes linearis
10b Sternal pores either absent or indistinct when seen by direct illumination. Coxal pores opening individually onto the coxal surface...........................................11

11a Two pores on each of the coxae of the terminal legs...........................................12
11b More than two pores on each of the coxae of the terminal legs...........................................17

12a Three strongly defined longitudinal sternal gutters anteriorly. Terminal pair of legs with distinct claws. 37-41 pairs of legs. Small, creamy white species...........................................Brachygeophilus truncorum
12b Lacking strongly marked sternal gutters. Either lacking or with rudimentary claws on last legs...........................................13
12c Terminal legs with distict claws, 45 or more pairs of legs...........................................Immature geophilids

13a Basal node of forcipules distinct...........................................14
13b Basal node of forcipules absent or rudimentary. Littoral species...........................................Hydroschendyula submarina

14a Lacking sternal pore groups on anterior segments...........................................15
14b Distinct pore groups on anterior segments...........................................16

15a Forcipules with crenulate concavity. With 51 to 57 pairs of legs. Single record from a glasshouse in Cornwall...........................................Brachyschendyula monoeci
15b Forcipules with a smooth concavity. Known specimens with 39 pairs of legs. Rare...........................................Brachyschendyula dentata

16a Forcipules with crenulate concavity. Telopodite of last pair of legs less than 1.5 times as long as that of penultimate pair of legs...........................................Schendyla peyerimhoffi
16b Forcipules with smooth concavity. Telopodite of last pair of legs greater than 1.5 times as long as the penultimate pair of legs...........................................Schendyla nemorensis

17a With fewer than 41 pairs of legs...........................................18
17b With more than 41 pairs of legs...........................................19
18a With distinct basal node on forcipules. 6 to 10 coxal pores adjacent to the metasternite and a single isolated pore on the main body of the coxae of the last pair of legs. North Devon. ............................... *Chalandea pinguis*

18b With rudimentary basal node on forcipules. 3 to 5 coxal pores adjacent to the metasternite. Rare, south and southwest coastal species. ............................... *Nothogeophilus turki*

19a With 65 to 75 pairs of legs. Coxal pores open on both dorsal and ventral surfaces of coxae, adjacent to the metasternite/metatergite. ............................... *Geophilus electricus*

19b With fewer than 65 pairs of legs. Coxal pores open on the ventral surface of the coxae only. ................................................................. 20

20a Last pair of legs with a tuberculate pretarsus. Rare species from the Scilly Isles. ............................... *Arenophilus peregrinus*

20b Last pair of legs without a tuberculate pretarsus. ................................................................. 21

21a Lacking carphophagus structure on anterior sternites. ................................................................. 22

21b With carphophagus structure on anterior sternites. ................................................................. 23

22a Forcipules with smooth concavity. With 3 coxal pores on each coxae of terminal legs. ............................... *Geophilus pusillifrater*

22b Forcipules with crenulate concavity. With 6 to 10 pores on each coxae of terminal legs. ............................... *Necrophloeophagus flavus*

23a Carphophagus structure occupying almost the entire breadth of the sternite. ................................................................. 24

23b Carphophagus structure occupying 3/4 of the breadth of the sternite. ................................................................. 25

24a With a distinct claw on the second maxillary telopodite. Shetland Isles. ............................... *Geophilus proximus*

24b With a small peg-like structure on the second maxillary telopodite. Widespread species. ............................... *Geophilus oligopus*

25a Forcipules with a smooth concavity. Robust, red to brownish grey species. ............................... *Geophilus carpophagus*

25b Forcipules with a crenulate concavity. Slender, pale species. ................................................................. 26

26a Forcipules with about 14 crenulations. Estuarine and coastal species. ............................... *Geophilus fucorum*

26b Forcipules with about 30 crenulations. ............................... *Geophilus osquidatum*