

Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group 4 (1987)

MISCELLANEA

A collection of miscellaneous short notes on myriapods.

This is intended to provide a vehicle for miscellaneous short notes on distribution ecology, biology, systematics, etc not long enough to provide a full paper. Contributions of up to half a page or so are welcome. Hopefully this will give an opportunity to put in that interesting odd note that would not otherwise appear for a long time if at all or pass only as "pers. comm."

Eds.

Myriapods in the Lothians

I work as a part-time Countryside Ranger at Hopetoun House in West Lothian, V.C. 84, sharing a post with another two Rangers. In 1982, in an attempt to extend our knowledge of the fauna of our 100 acres, we undertook to collect Centipedes and Millipedes, using the facilities offered by the Biological Recording Scheme. A combination of the enthusiasm of the two Organisers/Determiners, and a growing interest in the beasties, led, on my part, to a spread of interest from our narrow confines to a desire to learn as much as possible of the distribution of the Myriapoda in the three Lothians as they were, i.e. VC's 82, 83 and 84.

The scheme got going in 1986 with a planned effort to collect in every 10 km. or part-10 km. square, covering in each one as wide a range of microsites as possible. Initially three years has been set for this task. Results are plotted on maps to four figures of Nat. Grid Reference. It is too early to talk about results but on the way there have been some goodies; Centipedes 3 Vice County firsts and Millipedes 20.

A remark by Tony Barber prompted me to seek permission to search in the Royal Botanic Garden and this gave a first for Britain, Lithobius lapidicola Meinert, 1872 (det. E.H. Eason) from the Tropical Rock House (20.v.86). (Not to be confused with the species now known as L. borealis.)

Whilst it would be idle to belittle the joy of such a find, one must accept that the real value of an undertaking is in the hard slog of collecting, card completing, packaging and recording. I hope to be spared the time and given the energy to complete it.

C.P. RAWCLIFFE

Recent Records of Enantiulus armatus (Ribaut)

According to Gordon Blower's "Millipedes" (Blower, 1985) this species, originally known as Leptophyllum armatum was first found in Britain in 1958 by E.H. Eason at two sites in the Sidmouth area. Subsequently he found it himself at Great Haldon in 1967. In August 1981 I found a number of smallish iuliforms at Chudleigh Rocks, a site, like the others, in Devon (Vice County 3); these were identified for me by Mr. Blower as E. armatus.

Subsequently I found it in a former garden at Ivybridge (April, 1983) amongst litter and under old wood, a location from which it was collected on several later occasions. It was also found in a mixed woodland at Bowringsleigh near Kingsbridge (October 1983) by myself and S.P. Hopkin at Wonwell Beach at the mouth of the Erme (July 1984), again in woodland and most recently (June 1986) at Slapton, in Quercus ilex litter at the top of the cliffs by myself and A.N. Keay whilst looking for Lithobius tricuspis.

From these records it would clearly seem to be well established in South Devon, often in substantially man influenced habitats. We do not, as yet appear to have records from elsewhere. Demange (1981) gives "Tarn et dans le plateau central, Puy-de-Dôme, Aveyron" as localities in France.

References: Blower, J.G., (1985) Millipedes Linn. Soc. Synapses Br. Fauna (NS) 35
Demange, J-M., (1981) Les Mille-Pattes Myriapodes, Paris Editions
Boubée.

A.D. BARBER

Map 1. Enantiulus armatus 10 km distribution map.

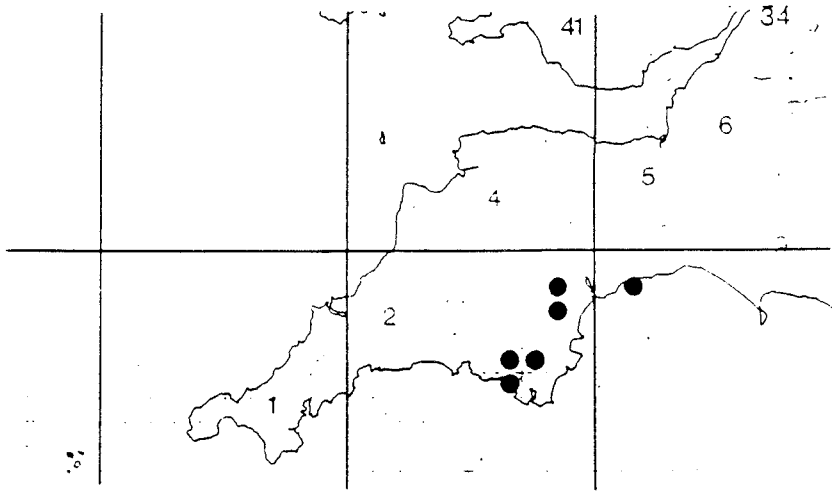
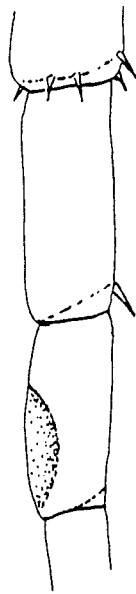


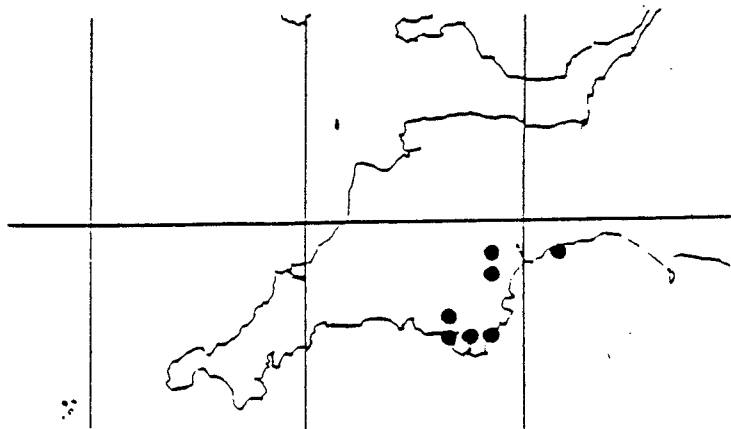
Fig. 1 Lithobius crassipes, male: Left 15th femur and tibia, dorsomedial



CORRECTION : Enantiulus armatus (Ribaut)

As indicated in the Newsletter of the British Myriapod group there were errors in the map in our last issue (Bull. Brit. Myriapod Group 4 : 50 : Miscellanea)

Map 1. Enantiulus armatus 10 km distribution map.



A secondary sexual character in *Lithobius crassipes* L. Koch

Serra (1980: Fig. 39C) has figured *Lithobius crassipes* L. Koch with a shallow dorsal excavation or sulcus on the distal two-thirds of the male fifteenth tibia. As far as I know this character has been overlooked by all other authors, although I quoted Serra in this respect in a paper on Macaronesian centipedes and confirmed its presence in examples of *L. crassipes* from the Canary Is. and Madeira (Eason 1985). I have also re-examined some of my British specimens of this species and have found this sulcus to be present.

L. crassipes is one of the commonest British species and it would be of interest to know whether this character is, in fact, always to be found. It is certainly rather obscure, has to be carefully sought by direct oblique illumination, and is only likely to be present in fully mature males.

- References: Eason, E.H., (1985) The Lithobiomorpha (Chilopoda) of the Macaronesian islands. Ent. scand. 15: 387-400.
Serra, A., (1980) Contribución al conocimiento de los Lithobiomorpha (Chilopoda) de la Peninsula Ibérica. Doctoral thesis. University of Barcelona.

E.H. EASON

Lithobius pilicornis Newport in Yorkshire

During a visit to Wakefield in November and December of 1985 I collected three male specimens of *L. pilicornis* from the south side of the railway embankment at Westgate Railway station.

The specimens were all discovered under stones at the base of the embankment.

A further collection was made at this site during February 1987 but failed to discover any specimens of *L. pilicornis*.

Other species from this site include *L. forficatus*, *L. crassipes*, *L. melanops* and *G. carpophagus*.

A.N. KEAY