



Newsletter

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Spring 2019

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In this issue we have the details of the Field Meeting including some of the species we wish to find in Scotland and the agenda for the 2019 AGM. There are a range of articles, but some of the highlights including a call for well preserved Woodlice for genetic testing, which includes some familiar UK species. A new (fourth) site has been found to be home to the UK's rare species *Trachysphaera lobata*. Talking of rare species another article is on the 'elusive' *Metatrachoniscoides celticus*. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. I hope you enjoy the latest newsletter and I look forward to receiving more reports and articles. The deadline for article submission for the next newsletter is Monday 9th September.

Rachel Julie Clark

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BMIG AMG and Field Weekend

The 2019 BMIG AGM is being held in South West Scotland. It has been 21 years since BMIG last held a meeting in Scotland and we are hoping to find species that were not found in 1997. Some species that hopefully will be additions include;

Millipedes - *Chordeuma proximum* and *Leptoiulus belgicus*

Centipedes - *Geophilus fucorum seurati* and *Strigamia maritima*

Woodlice - *Trichoniscoides albidus*, *Halophiloscia couchii* and *Philoscia affinis*

AGM notice

All BMIG members are invited to attend the 19th AGM of BMIG to be held at The Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart on Friday 26th April 2019 at 8pm.

BMIG Field Weekend and AGM 2019

Officer Elections

Six of the officer posts (see below) need to be filled at the AGM on 26th April. Existing officers coming up to the end of their three-year term are eligible for re-election, but we encourage any members of the Group to get more involved in running the organisation and put themselves forward for election. We ask that any nominations are sent to the Secretary, Helen Read beforehand but nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM.

Officers to be elected during the AGM are:

- Conservation Officer – *Although a vacant role, the chair and vice-chair have so far fulfilled the requirements between them. We would welcome someone giving the role their full attention.*
- Exhibition & Events Co-ordinator – *Our existing co-ordinator reaches the end of his term and is eligible for re-election, but we encourage members to nominate themselves.*
- Field Meeting Co-ordinator – *Although a vacant role, we currently rely on several members to arrange meetings.*
- Projects Officer – *Another vacant role.*
- Resources Officer - *Our existing officer reaches the end of his term and is eligible for re-election, but we encourage members to nominate themselves.*
- Social Media Manager – *Our existing manager has put forward her resignation as she feels she cannot give the time required to develop our presence on the social media platforms.*

AGM notice

All BMIG members are invited to attend the 19th AGM of BMIG to be held at The Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart on Friday 26th April 2019 at 8pm.

British Myriapod & Isopod Group 19th AGM
To be held at the Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart
On Friday 26th April 2019 at 8pm

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 18th AGM held on 23 March 2018 at Longtown
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report
Helen Read
5. Treasurer's Report
Paul Harding
6. Recording Scheme Reports
Steve Gregory, Paul Lee, Tony Barber
7. Librarian & Collection Manager's Report
Keith Lugg
8. Election of Officers –
 - * *Exhibition & Events Co-ordinator*
 - * *Resources Officer*
 - * *Social Media Manager*
 - * *Field Meeting Co-ordinator*
 - * *Projects Officer*
 - * *Conservation Officer*
9. Appointment of financial examiner
10. Future meetings
11. Any other business
12. Records from meeting
13. Thanks to meeting organiser

Woodlice needed for genetic bar-coding

Jörg Spelda (based in Munich, Germany) is working on a project to undertake genetic 'barcoding' of European Isopods. While reviewing the list of successfully sequenced species he has identified a number of 'missing species' and asks if it is possible

Centipedes Vice-Country Records

for BMIG members to help fill some gaps. A list of species needed for bar-coding that are found in Britain and Ireland are listed below. This includes some very familiar UK species (e.g. *Androniscus!*). I have already sent Jörg a few specimens (indicated by * in the list) but several examples of each species is preferred. The project ends in June, but for those extra special species it may be possible to sequence after that date. If you think you can help please contact Jörg (spelda@snsb.de).

Ideally the sample is:

- 1) **Male:** So that species identity can be checked against bar-coding results (but a female of a readily recognisable species is better than no specimen).
- 2) **Recently collected:** Material stored in 70% ethanol for no longer than 4-6 weeks (if transferred to 96% ethanol) works well. Older samples may be OK. In a previous project, one of my millipedes 'worked' after 2 years in 70% IDA, so for unusual or difficult to obtain species it is always worth a try.
- 3) **Preserved in 95-99% alcohol:** Either isopropyl alcohol (isopropanol) or absolute ethanol. Industrial denatured alcohol (IDA) contains methanol which may cause problems. Formaldehyde is no good as it destroys DNA.

Species needed for Woodlouse bar-coding project:

Androniscus dentiger, *Buddelundiella cataractae**,
*Metatrachoniscoides celticus**, *Metatrachoniscoides leydigii*,
Miktoniscus patiencei, *Oritoniscus flavus*, *Trichoniscoides albidus*, *Trichoniscoides saeroensis**, *Trichoniscoides sarsi**,
Trichoniscus provisorius, *Trichoniscus pusillus* s.s.,
Trichoniscus pygmaeus, *Halophiloscia couchii*, *Stenophiloscia glarearum**, *Porcellio dilatatus*, *Porcellio laevis*,
Porcellionides cingendus, *Armadillidium album* and
Armadillidium depressum.

Steve Gregory

Centipedes Vice-Country Records

As part of the preparation of data for the centipede atlas, I have recently obtained data for the numbers of species recorded from the various vice-counties of Britain & Ireland. These will reflect both the actual number of species, the extent of collecting in any particular vice-county and in areas such as the Scottish Highlands, the difficulty in collecting specimens as a consequence of access/suitable locations/ suitable microsites. The present figures may be open to addition but they give some idea of the extent of our present knowledge.

Of the English vice-counties, not surprisingly, the higher numbers of species are reported from the south with VC1 (Cornwall & Scilly) having 35. VC3 (South Devon), VC6 (North Somerset), VC9 (Dorset), VC10 (IOW), VC11 (South Hampshire), VC33 (East Sussex), VC15 (East Kent), VC17 (Surrey) & VC23 (Oxfordshire) all have 30 or more species recorded. The lowest English records number is 16 for VC29 (Cambridgeshire) with South Wiltshire (VC8) at 17. Not surprisingly the northern and to some extent the eastern VCs of England tend to have lower numbers overall with the extremely well studied Yorkshire vice-counties, VC61 – VC64, Doug Richardson County, as it was once dubbed, having only 18, 21, 24, 19 and 19 species recorded respectively.

In Wales, most counties are at least moderately well-known but, of course, surprises occur there such as the recording of *Lithobius piceus*, *L. tricuspis* and *L. muticus*. Glamorgan (VC41) with 33 species has the highest number and Montgomeryshire (VC47) and Merionethshire (VC48), each with 18, the lowest.

The overall number of species is, of course, lower in Scotland. The highest number of species recorded for any one vice-county is 20 for Fife (VC85) with

Ophiulus germanicus and *Philoscia affinis*

the lowest in VC109 (Caithness) with 4. East Sutherland (VC107) and Moray (VC95) have 7 each whilst Renfrew (VC76), North Aberdeenshire (VC93), Banff (VC94) and Shetland (VC112) all have single figures. To anyone unhappy about low numbers of species recorded from Caithness and Sutherland, I can only say, "Try collecting there!" The Isle of Man (VC71) records 20 species whilst the Channel Islands (VC113) have 26 overall, none of which have not also been recorded in mainland Great Britain.

Until the latter part of the twentieth century the amount of recording in Ireland after the early years of that century was very limited but work by Roy Anderson, Martin Cawley and other Irish and British workers has led to a massive increase. At the present time, most Irish vice-counties have between 10 and 19 species recorded from them but Cavan (VC H30) and Monaghan (H32) have only 9 each. At the other end of the scale, the southern vice counties of West Cork (VC H3), Mid-Cork (VC H40) and Waterford (VC H6) have 22, 23 and 21 respectively. So far, no centipede species reported from Ireland has not also been recorded from Britain.

Acknowledgements: To Kath Turvey & Steph Rorke of BRC Wallingford who, with great patience, have been entering & processing the centipede data.

Tony Barber

Discovery of *Ophiulus germanicus* and *Philoscia affinis* in Ireland

Just after Christmas I was re-evaluating some images in my photographic collection when I realised that those I had of *Tachypodoiulus niger* (Leach) were incorrectly labelled. The photos, on enlargement, showed the telson to be long with a fairly straight translucent tip. Definitely not

Tachypodoiulus! Could these be mislabelled *Ophiulus pilosus* or *Julus scandinavius*?

The specimens were female and from my garden, so I collected a lot more in order to obtain one or two males. It immediately became clear, if the photos were of same species as the newly collected males, that I was dealing with specimens of an *Ophiulus* as the first legs were sickle-shaped and pointed, and the second legs fairly normal looking but with very small digitate extensions basally. Must be *Ophiulus pilosus* I thought! But no, the first legs were conspicuously bulbous at base and in any case both males and females were much larger than any *O. pilosus* I had seen. Demange (1981) was consulted and it appeared that the unidentified *Ophiulus* might be *O. napolitanus* (Attems) or maybe *O. renosensis* Mauriès. At this point I did a Google Scholar search and came up right away with Steve Gregory's paper (BMIG Bulletin, 2018) in which *O. germanicus* (Verhoeff) is described new to Britain. Comparisons were done between the Belfast material and Gregory's description of *O. germanicus* and a high degree of correspondence found. Subsequently Steve was able to confirm the identity of the Belfast specimens from material I sent him.

Ophiulus germanicus is a large species (females up to 38 mm long) and highly active, thrashing around energetically when picked up. But how did it get to Ireland and how widespread is it? In Britain it has only been found at a single site, Trap Grounds, Oxford City. Northern Ireland seems to have a reputation for acquiring Italian millipedes with *Anamastigona pulchella* reported in 1996, *Polydesmus asthenestatus* in 2015 and *Cylindroiulus apenninorum* in 2018. All are native to northern Italy, as is *Ophiulus germanicus*, despite the name. So one can postulate a similar but presently unknown means of transfer. It quickly became clear that *Ophiulus germanicus* is

Rare pill millipede *Trachysphaera lobata*

common and widespread in this part of Ireland. As of 26 January 2019 I have found it in eighteen localities, mostly in and around Belfast but reaching up to 30 miles west and 20 miles south. It is too early to provide more than preliminary estimates of its range, habitat preferences or how long it has been in Ireland. Indications are, however, that it could be very widespread, in many of my records masquerading as *Tachypodoiulus niger*, and I have alcohol material and photos dating back to early 2015. It appears to be strongly associated with broadleaf woodland, particularly where this is disturbed, and has been found in city parks and gardens. While it seems likely to have been in Ireland for some time we may never know how long. Like its congener *O. pilosus*, it is another likely import from Italy, and appears to find local conditions very much to its liking.

Prior to the discovery of *O. germanicus* the woodlouse *Philoscia affinis* was demanding my attention. *Philoscia affinis* also appears to be widespread in Ireland. Habitat preferences differ fairly significantly however, from those of *O. germanicus*. Of the seven sites so far known for *P. affinis*, two are large transition mires in Co Down (first Irish record, Turmennan Fen, 18 September 2018), one is montane heath north of Belfast at 350 m asl, one is native alder fen west of Belfast, one is peaty fen over limestone in south-east Galway and one is on the scrubby interface of hazel and limestone pavement in Co. Clare. Only one site could be described as synanthropic (disturbed). A single male was found in deep broadleaf litter in a Belfast Parks landfill site at Dixon Park in the Lagan Valley, but it could have been transferred there accidentally from a less disturbed site elsewhere. There is still clearly a lot to be learned about native status, distribution and habitat preferences in Ireland but present information points to it being a native.

Roy Anderson

References

- Demange, J.-M. (1981) *Les mille-pattes myriapodes*. Société Nouvelle des Éditions Boubée, Paris.
- Gregory, S.J. (2018) *A millipede new to the UK: Ophiulus germanicus* (Verhoeff, 1896) (Diplopoda, Julida: Julidae) from Oxford. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group* 30: 61-67

A fourth UK location for the rare and threatened pill millipede *Trachysphaera lobata*

In February last year Calum Urquhart was surveying for bats in one of several old mines in Prideaux Wood (SX0655) near St Blazey, Cornwall when he came across a rotting log sitting on a gravelly substrate. Poking around in the decaying wood he collected a tiny, white pill millipede that he collected, photographed and tentatively identified as *Trachysphaera lobata*. His uncertainty arose more from a concern that the habitat was atypical of the species, being subterranean and approximately 3km inland, rather than any concern over the identification characters. He had gained the impression that the animal was only found on the coast and above ground. When Paul Lee saw the photo (see Image One) it was clear that Calum had indeed made an exciting discovery and examination of the specimen confirmed there was nothing wrong with his identification.

Des Kime and Henrik Enghoff's European atlas shows *T. lobata* occurs across France west of Paris. It was found in Britain for the first time in 1984 when Dick Jones and Andy Keay collected it near Bembridge, Isle of Wight and then in 2010 John Harper found it at two locations in Wales. Along with the new Cornish site these British locations fit with an Atlantic but not a coastal distribution, although 3km inland would still count as coastal.

Another day, another Eurypauropod... !!

Also, most of the French records are from caves so the Cornish habitat should be considered typical of *T. lobata* in a wider European context. The millipede seems to be uncommon throughout its range and even when found only small numbers may be present, but this could be down to the correct microsite not being located. Further studies at Bembridge have located very high densities of several thousand per cubic metre in small pockets of humus-rich sand within a mainly clay soil.

In 2011, supported by funding obtained by the invertebrate charity Hymettus, a collaboration between BMIG and Dr Thomas Wesner at the Alexander Koenig Research Museum in Bonn investigated the relationship of the UK populations of *Trachysphaera* to each other and to populations of *Trachysphaera lobata* and closely related species in France and Spain. Scanning electron microscopy and DNA analysis confirmed that the English and Welsh populations were *T. lobata* but they had two separate origins. The study was not able to trace the origins. With the discovery of a fourth UK population, geographically isolated from the other three, we had an opportunity to investigate these matters further.

On 17th March 2018 Calum returned to the mine in Prideaux Wood to collect more specimens of *T. lobata* for DNA analysis. He found the same log 10-15m from the entrance in total darkness. The log was quite rotten, crumbly and very wet, its base at times completely submerged, but the millipede seemed far more abundant in the very slightly dryer, although still damp deadwood, at the tip of the log. Carefully breaking up some of the deadwood into white trays, he found around twenty millipedes in an hour and collected ten for analysis. A week later these were passed to Thomas Wesner during the BMIG meeting at Longtown but the DNA sequencing was unsuccessful. Thomas comments that sequencing *Trachysphaera* is a huge challenge as the animals are



Image One: Photograph of the pill millipede *Trachysphaera lobata* © Callum Urquhart

so small, are full of parasites and can roll up so tightly that alcohol may not penetrate enough to prevent some deterioration of soft tissue.

We still want to get some data from the Cornish population, but Calum is now working in northern Scotland and has been unable to get back to Cornwall. Fortunately, Graham Proudlove of Manchester Museum has stepped in and arranged for a cave biologist living in Devon to collect a second sample. Hopefully, we will yet have an answer to our questions.

Calum Urquhart and Paul Lee

Another day, another Eurypauropod... !!

This was the title of a posting on the *South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre* facebook group. How could I not take a peep? In October, Stewart Bevan had found several very striking pauropods lurking under a plank in his garden in south Wales (see Stewart's image, used with permission). They subsequently re-appeared again in December. Stewart wrote "Even though nobody could give me an identification and my efforts

Metatrichoniscoides celticus

to contact the only taxonomist and authority on pauropoda - Ulf Scheller, ended in failure, I'm still convinced that they're *Trachypauropus britannicus*.. There are zero records of these on the LERC map..” Such is the state of affairs regarding pauropoda.

In the previous newsletter (No. 37) Tony Barber reported on ‘A Pauropod from a Welsh Cave’ and highlighted the almost complete lack of knowledge about this group of animals. It was Ulf Scheller who described *T. britannicus* in 1990 from specimens collected by Gordon Blower in the Lake District. I agree with Stewart that his specimen belongs to family Eurypauropodidae. It has a very different appearance those of family Pauropodidae figured in Tony’s newsletter article. Currently, there is just one known species of Eurypauropodidae in Britain, but, a big but, this either could be another sighting of *T. britannicus* or it could be an entirely different species, new to Britain/science.

Some of Stewart’s images of this tiny (1mm) but striking creature can be seen on the BMIG website:



Image Two: An example of *Trachypauropus britannicus* found by Stewart Bevan in South Wales © Stewart Bevan

<http://www.bmig.org.uk/page/pauropod-checklist>.
Take a peep if you dare...

Steve Gregory

Metatrichoniscoides celticus, and more, in north Wales

Perhaps the ultimate discovery of the year (so far) has been that of *Metatrichoniscoides celticus* found by Tom Hughes in February at Mariandyrys, on Anglesey, north Wales (SH 601 810). A male and female were found under embedded limestone rocks on short turf calcareous grassland amongst gorse and heather (the male specimen has been sent off for genetic bar-coding). This is perhaps the UK’s, if not the planet’s most elusive woodlouse? It was described new to science as recently as 1981 from a few sites along a 40km stretch of the south Wales’ coast. A subsequent find in a limestone quarry 50km away and 7km inland at 170m asl suggested it is not confined to the coast. Tom’s observation, some 8km inland, confirms this. The known global distribution of this tiny woodlouse has now expanded to include a 200km strip of Wales. This elusive species may await discovery on other calcareous grasslands in coastal regions of Wales and western England (the Gower Peninsular in south Wales springs to mind...). Tantalisingly, there are records of possible female specimens at St Bees Head, Cumbria and Giant’s Causeway Co. Antirm, Ireland (though these sites lie on sandstone and igneous rocks, respectively, rather than limestone). It may yet prove to be even more widespread.

Tom Hughes has also been active elsewhere in north Wales. Among his other highlights have been the rediscovery of *Miktoniscus patiencei* under stones amongst strand line debris along the Menai Strait and *Porcellionides cingendus* under a rock in the estuary at Bangor. These both confirm old sightings in the area. He’s also been busy inland having found several sites for *Philoscia affinis* (based on male specimens). Often these were among leaf litter at the base of trees, and often in association with typical *P.*

Chondrodesmus sp and records in Lancashire

muscorum. Interestingly, John Bratton and Richard Gallon have also contacted me to say that they've also found *P. affinis* in north Wales (supported by images of the characteristic male 7th pereopod). This is clearly a widespread, if not frequent, woodlouse in north Wales. Tom has also found the millipede *Brachychaeteuma bradeae* in woodland near Bangor, which seems to be the first record for Wales.

Steve Gregory

Possible *Chondrodesmus* c.f. *riparius* Carl, 1914 new to Britain from Bexhill

In September 2018 I was sent a couple of photos (see Image 1) of millipedes in a pot plant from a home owner in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex. I did not recognise the species, but it looked like some sort of exotic flat-back millipede with strikingly contrasting yellow paranota. I requested some specimens hoping for at least one mature male. Several live animals were duly sent but despite their size, c. 4cm length and 6.5mm breadth, all of the animals were still immature. Ever hopeful, I tried unsuccessfully to keep the specimens alive until they moulted.



Image Three: The 'Ikea Millipede' found in a plant pot in Bexhill-On-Sea © Bexhill Home owner

I was told the millipedes had been found in a plant bought several months previously from Ikea. This brought to mind a paper on the 'Ikea millipede' in

the Bulletin. The species in this 2015 paper by Tony Barber (BMIG Bulletin 28: 52-53) turned out to be *Xenobolus carnifex*, a spirobolid not at all like the Bexhill millipedes. However, in searching for this paper I came across an older one (2008) by Henrik Enghoff (BMIG Bulletin 23: 38-39) describing the discovery of a large exotic millipede, *Chondrodesmus* c.f. *riparius*, in potted plants in various countries in northern Europe, initially Sweden in 2000, then Denmark and Germany. Some of these millipedes had come from plants purchased from Ikea! From Dr Enghoff's description of the animal and from reliably named coloured photos on the internet it seems very likely that the Bexhill specimens are the fulfilment of his prediction that the millipede would soon turn up in Britain.

Paul Lee

Some interesting records from north-west Lancashire

Nicola Garnham has been busy on the Lancashire/Cumbria border. Whilst rummaging through bags of leaf-litter (primarily looking for hoverfly larvae) she has discovered, as a by catch, several species of great interest to BMIG. First were additional localities for the poorly known woodlouse *Philoscia affinis*. Interestingly, she found both *P. affinis* and *P. muscorum* often occurred together, which seems to be a recurring theme. The millipede *Leptoiulus belgicus* then turned up at three sites within 2 hectads: among leaf-litter in deciduous woodland, inside a polytunnel 'greenhouse' and at a cemetery nearby. [Not long after another Lancashire *L. belgicus* was found by Nigel Gilligan in his bathroom]. This millipede has a predominantly western distribution in Britain and these Lancashire observations nicely fill the rather large gap between known occurrences in north Wales and western Scotland.

Woodlouse from Essex and Kent Bioblitz

Subsequently, Nicola found a tiny red-eyed *Trichoniscoides* woodlouse in a garden, but all specimens proved to be female. Fortunately, whilst erecting a greenhouse a male specimen was discovered (with female company) under old rotting pallets nearby. This proved to be *T. sarsi* (specimen has been sent off for genetic bar-coding). Although not an unexpected species (it is elusive by nature and consequently very under-recorded), there is a huge void between the previously known closest sites at Ludlow in Shropshire, Dublin in Ireland and near Aberdeen in Eastern Scotland.

More bags of leaf-litter collected this spring revealed several female *Melogona* millipedes from several sites. This was the perfect opportunity for me to try out Henrik Enghoff's (2016) images of female bursal sclerites. Female *M. scutellaris* and *M. gallica* were readily indentified, but to my surprise one specimen seemed to be *Melogona voigtii*. That would be new to England (a millipede only known from a few sites in southern Scotland - so far) and I'd be much happier to see a male specimen. A search for that all important male *Melogona* resulted in the discovery of some *Lithobius muticus* from deciduous woodland on limestone (but no confirmation of *M. voigtii*). This is a centipede typically associated with ancient deciduous woodland in south-east England, and this is a long way north of the previously known outlying populations of the Derbyshire/Yorkshire border. I wonder what will turn up next?

Steve Gregory

Some woodlouse goodies from Essex

This winter has seen a flurry of activity on the, err hum, *Isopods of Britain and Ireland Facebook* group (set up by Warren Maguire last year). This group has attracted a number of new woodlouse recorders who have posted images of woodlice for

identification/confirmation prior to submission of records via iRecord. These have included Tom Hughes and Nicola Garnham who are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another rising star is Christian Gaster who burst on the scene in November with images of *Eluma caelata* from two sites in south Essex (and has since added more) and an *Armadillidium nasatum* for good measure. In the New Year he discovered the joy of Trichoniscid woodlice with *Trichoniscoides sarsi* from two inland gardens, including his own. Although a characteristic woodlouse of south-east England, to my surprise these turned out to be new county records for Essex. During a subsequent visit to the coast he added two sites for *Miktoniscus patiencei*. Among the usual suspects for Essex, Christian has also recorded *Ligidium hypnorum* and *Trachelipus rathkii* on a few occasions, but interestingly, he has not yet found *Philoscia affinis* (despite searching). This may be a species of southern and western Britain? More records needed!

Steve Gregory

Sandwich Bay, Kent - BIOBLITZ - Volunteers wanted!

Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust are hosting a weekend bioblitz on Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th July 2019. We invite any interested Myriapod / Isopod enthusiasts and others to join us on either or both days.

Sandwich Bay is a long sweeping inlet of the sea between Ramsgate and Deal, on the east coast of Kent, England. The coastal area consists of sand flats with their associated salt marshes and coastal sand dunes. The Sandwich Flats stretch for about five miles (8 km) along the coast. The coastal habitats are of high ecological importance. Most of the bay

Committee Contacts

bears national and international nature conservation designations. The beach at Sandwich Bay is largely shingle, and relatively steep in profile at points along its width, but the receding tide reveals some areas of sand.

The area attracts many naturalists to study the rich flora and fauna of the area, a stretch of coastal dunes unique in the County of Kent and recognised as being of the highest scientific value. Many well known specialists have already signed up for this event but more would be welcomed. You can attend

on either of both days. The Observatory does have limited self-catering accommodation available. This does need to be pre-booked however. There are other places where one can stay in Sandwich, Deal and elsewhere in the area. As it will be useful to know who is coming and when and what their interests are we would request that you register in advance and you will soon find a form to do this on the SBBOT website at <http://sbbot.org.uk> where further details are also available.

Tony Barber

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