

BRITISH MYRIAPOD

GROUP, NEWSLETTER No. 19

Sept. 1993

Editor: Dick Jones

PARIS FOLLIES

Well, here we are again already, these newsletters come round faster and faster, I must be getting old. The field weekend in Sussex was wet but enjoyable and lots of new dots were added to the map. The results are set out below.

Andy Keay has found a centipede. Apparently it is red in colour and was found near his home in Surrey. Latest thinking is that it is *Geophilus floritinus?*, which is known from Italy. Undoubtedly it was introduced, but how, who can tell.

The end of July saw the 9th International Congress of Myriapodology in Paris. I went for the first time along with Tony Barber, Ted Eason, Steve Hopkin, John Lewis and Helen Read. Des Kime was also there. It was a great occasion to meet other myriapod workers from all over the world. It ended with a dinner in a restaurant where the Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset, or some such place, kept us entertained for hours with songs and tales, and the management kept us supplied with plonk*.

Tony and I gave a paper, (well Tony gave it, I sat and watched), on the Geographical Distribution of Diplopods in Great Britain and Ireland: Possible Causal Factors. It all started when I was considering how Pacific islands got their faunas. Tony said that he would do something with the data on the distribution of millipedes but came back to me and said that the data did not fit many of the recognised climatic distribution factors and what did I think? I said that the more I knew about the British distribution the more perplexed I became. We poked it around a bit and then it hit us: some obviously were here before the continental land bridge was broken but the majority are later imports, either by rafting or, more likely, brought over by boat. From there on it was easy; we will work it up more fully as time permits. (Sorry Paul, but does that mean we no longer qualify for Government support, most species being introduced? Ed.)

Steve gave the introduction to the Congress with the opening paper, Myriapodology before and after Martin Lister's journey to Paris in the year 1698, giving many illustrations. John Lewis gave a paper on the structure and possible function of the spiracles in Scolopendrid centipedes and Des Kime gave a paper on millipedes recorded in Luxembourg.

The next Congress will be in Copenhagen in three years time.

Some of you might be surprised to see Rundle's name on the millipede list for
* Sorry, fine wines.

this month. Alas he is still engrossed in fossil fish otoliths, I went through his old records and transferred them to cards.

Jon Daws sent me some millipedes to check for Kirsty Maddocks that she had collected in Leicestershire. As luck would have it one of the tubes contained a male *Cylindroiulus truncorum*, a first for me. There are less than half a dozen records for the country.

FIELD WEEKENDS

Jon Dawes and I have decided on October 16th/17th for a mini-weekend in Lincolnshire, staying the night of the 16th in bed and breakfast. Jon is getting the sites sorted out for us. What we shall find is a mystery, I seem to remember just *Tachypodoiulus niger* and *Oniscus asellus* from the reclaimed bit along the Wash! Anyone that I have missed out, who wants to come phone me (0485) 541790 asap.

Gordon Corbet is still making inroads into Scottish myriapods, see the millipede list below, but there will surely be some left to find at next year's field weekend. The next BMG/BISG field weekend will be in Scotland at Meikle in Perthshire. For those who don't know their way around Scotland it is in Strathmore on the west side of the Sidlaw Hills. Get an atlas out and look between Perth and Forfar. Charles Rawcliffe will be organising it for us and you should be getting a form from him soon.

VICE-COUNTY DISTRIBUTION: MILLIPEDES

Species	Vice-counties	Finders
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>	14	A. N. Keay, R. E. J.
	85	G. B. Corbet
	89	G. B. Corbet
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	47	Mrs M. J. Morgan
	96	G. B. Corbet
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>	78	G. B. Corbet
	81	G. B. Corbet
<i>Brachychaeteuma melanops</i>	14	R. E. J.
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>	14	P. Lee, A. N. Keay
<i>Choniulus palmatus</i>	55	A. J. Rundle
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	55	A. J. Rundle
	76	G. B. Corbet
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>	89	G. B. Corbet
<i>C. nitidus</i>	55	A. J. Rundle
<i>C. truncorum</i>	55	A. J. Rundle
<i>C. vulnerarius</i>	14	G. Legg, R. E. J.
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>	14	S. J. Gregory
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>	83	G. B. Corbet
<i>Melogona gallica</i>	14	A. N. Keay
<i>Ophiodesmus albanus</i>	81	G. B. Corbet
	85	G. B. Corbet
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>	76	G. B. Corbet
<i>Polydesmus gallicus</i>	25	P. Lee
<i>Thalassiosobates littoralis</i>	14	S. Hopkin

Please update the lists given in the Bulletin, 1993.

REJ

"SUSSEX, SUSSEX BY THE SEA"

Dear old Sussex by the sea - as the song goes. I think the joint B. I. S. G. / B. M. G. would have to prefer "soggy Sussex by the sea". As you may have guessed from the above comments, the members who did not attend the meeting based at Hassocks, W. Sussex probably were sitting at home in the dry! Conditions during the meeting were wet, particularly on the Friday - but we now know who to blame. In a moment of weakness Dr. Helen Read admitted that she had been into the desert (somewhere on her travels) on two occasions, and on both occasions it had rained!! She further admitted to disliking thunder and lightning - promptly followed by thunder, lightning and the heaviest rainfall seen in years! The weather cleared up on the Saturday (where was Helen? She had departed for another meeting elsewhere) and a great deal of collecting was achieved.

Several new V.C. records were obtained (see attached lists for site/species information) and it goes to prove that Sussex (East and West) is not the 'black hole' for myriapods that we thought it was. The listings are not complete as I am still waiting for records from several sites but I understand that some people have been rather busy of late. Perhaps an addendum to the list will appear in the next newsletter. [Just made it in time for this one. Ed.]

Our thanks go to the organisers and the staff at Stafford House who put up with muddy footprints on the carpet, empty cans, glasses and bottles (none of which were mine!!). Several members of our groups have already passed on their thanks, particularly to the cooks (I would have hoped so - they tried to eat Sussex out of food (to enable the Sussex Euro. M.P. to claim a subsidy from Brussels?))

ANDY KEAY

MILLIPEDES	41		a		b		50a		b		a		b		51		a		b		c		d		e		f		a		b					
	71	80	81	91	91	49	49	59	59	01	02	13	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21			
<i>A. pallidus</i>																																				
<i>B. guttulatus</i>																																				
<i>B. melanops</i>																																				
<i>B. superus</i>																																				
<i>B. pusillus</i>																																				
<i>C. proximum</i>																																				
<i>C. caeruleocinctus</i>																																				
<i>C. latestriatus</i>																																				
<i>C. nitidus</i>																																				
<i>C. punctatus</i>																																				
<i>G. marginata</i>																																				
<i>M. palicola</i>																																				
<i>M. gallica</i>																																				
<i>N. polydesmoides</i>																																				
<i>N. varicorne</i>																																				
<i>O. albonanus</i>																																				
<i>O. pilosus</i>																																				
<i>P. angustus</i>																																				
<i>P. denticulatus</i>																																				
<i>P. gallicus</i>																																				
<i>P. lagurus</i>																																				
<i>P. fuscus</i>																																				
<i>T. niger</i>																																				
<i>T. littoralis</i>																																				

	51	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	c	a	b						a	b	
	23	30	31	31	32	32	33	33	40	40	40	41	41	43	50	52	60	71	81	81
<i>B. guttulatus</i>		□	□	□						□		□		□						
<i>B. superus</i>				□	□		□		□			□	□				□	□	□	□
<i>B. pusillus</i>												□		□						
<i>C. palmatus</i>		□																		
<i>C. rawlinsii</i>																□				
<i>C. britannicus</i>															□					
<i>C. punctatus</i>	□		□	□	□	□	□	□			□	□	□	□	□	□		□	□	□
<i>C. vulnerarius</i>															□					
<i>G. marginata</i>	□		□	□	□	□					□	□				□		□	□	
<i>J. scandinavus</i>																				□
<i>M. palicola</i>		□		□												□				
<i>N. polydesmoides</i>		□								□		□			□		□			
<i>N. varicorne</i>				□			□					□							□	
<i>O. albonanus</i>		□		□												□				
<i>O. pilosus</i>				□			□				□				□					
<i>P. angustus</i>			□	□	□						□		□		□	□		□	□	□
<i>P. denticulatus</i>																□		□		
<i>P. gallicus</i>	□			□			□								□			□	□	
<i>P. fuscus</i>						□		□			□			□		□				□
<i>T. niger</i>	□	□	□	□	□		□			□					□	□		□		□

41/71 Harting Downs. 41/80, 41/81 Kingley Vale. 41/91a Chiseldown. 41/91b Crouch Common.
50/49a Newhaven Cliffs. 50/49b Seaford Beach. 50/59a Cuckmere Haven. 50/59b Friston Forest.
51/01 nr. Whiteways Lodge (A29). 51/02 The Mens N.R. 51/13 Rowhook/Horsham. 51/20 Portslade-by-Sea. 51/21a Saddlescombe C.P. 51/21b Newtown Farm. 51/21c Hurstpierpoint Church. 51/21d Woodmancote Church. 51/21e Newtimber Hill. 51/21f West Town. 51/22a Nymans Wood. 51/22b Sheepwash Ghyll. 51/23 Saint Leonards Forest. 51/30 Salt-Dean Cliffs. 51/31a Butchers Wood. 51/31b Keymer/ Hassocks. 51/32a Brook Street. 51/32b Newbury Pond N.R. 51/33a East Grinstead. 51/33b Old House Warren. 51/40a Newhaven. 51/40b NW of Seaford. 51/40c Glynde. 51/41a Offham Hill. 51/41b Plashett Wood. 51/43 Old Lodge Reserve. 51/50 Tea Garden, Litlington. 51/52 Selwyn's Wood. 51/60 Eastbourne. 51/71 Marline Wood. 51/81a Fairlight C.P. 51/81b Fairlight Church.

WANTED

Professor Conde, from France, who has worked on *Polyxenus lagurus* for many years would like some from Scotland. He is working on the distribution of the sexual and the parthenogenetic forms. Individuals of the sexual form have two median and two lateral red-brown lines on the dorsum which are absent from the other. [Millipedes. Blower, 1985 page 53] A quick look at the Atlas shows that there is only one record, and an old one at that, from the whole of Scotland. We had better rectify this at the next BMG/BISG field meeting! In the mean time, any records for Professor Conde can be sent through me.

SUSSEX CENTIPEDES

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
B. truncorum																																
H. vesuviana																																
C. anomalans																																
C. hortensis																																
C. parisi																																
G. carpophagus																																
G. electricus																																
G. osquidatum																																
H. subterraneus																																
L. borealis																																
L. calceolatus																																
L. crassipes																																
L. curtipes																																
L. forficatus																																
L. macilentus																																
L. melanops																																
L. microps																																
L. muticus																																
L. piceus																																
L. variegatus																																
N. flavus																																
S. nemorensis																																
St. acuminata																																
St. crassipes																																
St. maritima																																
B. truncorum	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45																			
H. vesuviana																																
C. anomalans																																
C. hortensis																																
C. parisi																																
G. carpophagus																																
G. electricus																																
H. subterraneus																																
L. borealis																																
L. calceolatus																																
L. crassipes																																
L. forficatus																																
L. macilentus																																
L. melanops																																
L. microps																																
L. muticus																																
L. piceus																																
L. variegatus																																
N. flavus																																
S. nemorensis																																
St. acuminata																																
St. crassipes																																
St. maritima																																

SITE No.	VICE COUNTY	GRID REF.	SITE NAME
1	13	41804033	nr. SOUTHWOOD FARM
2	13	5130-15-	BUTCHERS WOOD (WOODLAND TRUST)
3	14	51447009	NEWHAVEN
4	14	5044-99-	NEWHAVEN CLIFFS
5	14	5051-99-	FRISTON FOREST (F.C.)
6	13	51313154	KEYMER
7	13	51310156	HASSOCKS
8	13	41804033	CHISELDOWN
9	13	51002105	nr. WHITEWAYS LODGE
10	13	5126-12-	NEWTIMBER (N.T.)
11	14	51470157	PLASHETT WOOD
12	13	51269169	nr. WEST TOWN
13	13	5124-04-	PORTSLADE BY SEA
14	14	51524016	LITLINGTON
15	13	5130-26-	nr. BROOK STREET
16	14	5144-32-	ASHDOWN FOREST (F.C.)
17	14	51389372	EAST GRINSTEAD
18	13	51267119	SADDLESCOMBE CHALK PITS
19	14	51272295	NYMANS, HANDCROSS (N.T.)
20	14	51305243	NEWBURY POND N.R.
21	14	51551204	SELWYN'S WOOD, CROSS-IN-HAND
22	14	51635006	LANGNEY POINT, EASTBOURNE
23	14	51517001	WEST DEAN, SEAFORD
24	14	51455090	MOUNT CABURN, GLYNDE
25	14	51401113	OFFHAM HILL
26	13	51279165	HURSTPIERPOINT CHURCH
27	13	51231150	WOODMANCOTE CHURCH
28	13	51234044	SHOREHAM FORT
29	14	51458002	N.W. of SEAFORD
30	14	51466998	SEAFORD BEACH
31	14	51381019	SALT-DEAN CLIFFS
32	14	51780122	MARLINE WOOD
33	14	51853105	FAIRLIGHT COUNTRY PARK
34	14	51860119	FAIRLIGHT CHURCH
35	13	51208299	SHEEPWASH GHYLL
36	13	51209301	ST. LEONARDS FOREST
37	13	51278159	S. of HURSTPIERPOINT
38	14	51643009	EASTBOURNE
39	14	50518976	CUCKMERE HAVEN
40	13	511--3--	ROWHOOK
41	13	4179-17-	HARTING DOWN
42	13	4185-15-	WEST DEAN WOOD (SWT)
43	13	4183-09-	KINGLEY VALE NNR
44	13	4183-10-	KINGLEY VALE NNR
45	14	5146-30-	OLD LODGE (SWT)

MORE ABOUT BRACHYCHAETEUMA

I was interested to read Paul Lee's article in the last newsletter (No. 18) about Myriapods in Suffolk gardens. The inclusion of *Brachychaeteuma bradeae* in the list of 'expected' garden species is in contrast to records of this species in Oxfordshire (VC 23 & 22 in part). *B. bradeae* was first collected from the county at Wychwood Forest NNR in 1986 (D.T. Bilton, County Museum Records) and is now known from five sites. Three sites are SSSI woodland. At these sites *B. bradeae* was found in association with species such as the woodland indicator molluscs, *Acicula fusca*, *Vertigo substriata*, *Ena montana* and *Limax cinereoniger* and the woodland centipedes *Lithobius curtipes* and *L. muticus*. The other two sites were also deciduous woodland and appear, botanically, to be ancient.

Now *Brachychaeteuma melanops* also occurs in this part of the country and this species can be said to have 'synanthropic tendencies'. Since the first record in 1991 it has been collected from eight sites in the county. Three sites are from riverside locations prone to flooding, three from churchyards, one from a spinney in a school playing field and one from a dismantled railway line. All these sites are disturbed to some degree and it is likely that this species will be also found in gardens.

The obvious conclusion is that the southern species *B. melanops* has some advantage in sites of high disturbance. *B. bradeae* then either takes refuge in undisturbed natural sites or moves further north (to Suffolk!) to territory unoccupied by the former. [It's common in my garden in Norfolk too. Ed.] Admittedly this is pure speculation based on very few records. Clearly what is required is more records from the overlap zone between the ranges of these species, (approximately Cardiganshire to south Essex), to see which species can be found in which habitat.

In a similar vein the common *Polydesmus angustus* is a rather local, essentially rural, species in Oxfordshire. In contrast *P. gallicus* is ubiquitous and abundant in all except the most acid or dry sites where it is replaced by *P. angustus*.

Such are the millipedes in the mid-south!

Steve Gregory

ADDRESSES OF CONTRIBUTORS

Dick Jones, 14 Post Office Rd., Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6HP

Steve Gregory, 56 Evenlode Tower, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 5JB

Andy Keay, 37 Merrymeet, Woodmansterne, Surrey SM7 3HX

NEXT BMG NEWSLETTER Material for inclusion should reach R.E.J. by 28th February. Material should preferably be typed but floppy discs using Locoscript 1 or 2 or 3 for Amstrad 8000 series PCWs are especially acceptable as they save me extra typing.

Late additions to the records from the Sussex expedition.

Site no.	Grid ref	V.C.No	Site
1.	516300	14	Langney Point
2.	505595		Birlong Gap
3.	51401113		Nr. Lewes
4.	512729		Nymans Wood
5.	51518002	14	Friston Forest
6.	515520	14	Selwyns Wood
7.	51305244		Newbury Pond N.R.
8.	512629		Nymans
9.	512629		Nymans
10.	51268122	13	Saddlescombe Chalk Pit
11.	51455091	14	Mount Caburn, Glynde
12.	512629		Nymans Wood
13.	51302346	14	Old House Warren
14.	41982173	13	Crouch Bottom (SWT)
15.	41978181	13	Burton Mill Pond (SWT)
16.	51023237	13	The Mens, Petworth (SWT)
17.	51208299	13	Sheepwash Ghyll

SITE No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
B.truncorum				■		■			■			■	■	■			
H.vesuviana	■																
H.subterraneus	■	■						■		■			■	■			■
G.carpophagus				■		■								■	■		■
G.oligopus					■			■				■					
N.flavus		■									■						■
S.nemorensis							■	■			■			■			
St.crassipes													■				
C.hortensis								■					■				
C.parisi										■							
L.microps	■	■	■		■	■	■	■									
L.forficatus		■			■									■	■	■	■
L.variegatus														■		■	■
L.piceus																	■