



Newsletter 33

Autumn 2016



Editorial

This issue of the BMIG's newsletter is packed full of interesting and useful articles. Inside you will find plenty of the usual articles relating to new records of woodlice, centipedes and millipedes from around the UK. There is a particularly interesting discussion on colour variation in the woodlice *Porcellio scaber* from Julie Curl whose photo you can see in the box to the top right. There are additional notes or articles on Alderley Edge, suggestions for important field data to collect on centipedes and even a new technique using cats for hunting centipedes. You will also find information about the upcoming AGM and field meeting, the booking form for which can be found at the end of the newsletter.

As the newsletter has now moved to a permanent electronic format it will only be sent to members via email unless a member specifically asks for hard copies to be sent. If you have not yet sent us your email address then please do and we can add you to the mailing list for future copies. As always if you have any interesting articles, notes or photos you would like to share please feel free to send them to me for future newsletters.

Richard Kelly, Newsletter Editor
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AGM notice

All BMIG members are invited to attend the AGM to be held at 8.30 pm on Friday, 31st March 2017. The venue will be The Berkeley Guesthouse, 39 Marine Road West, Morecambe LA3 1BZ.

The present committee welcomes nominations for officers and ordinary committee members from any BMIG member. Ideally nominations would be communicated to the secretary beforehand but they can also be made from the floor at the AGM.

Annual Field Meeting and AGM

Morecambe, Lancashire

Thursday 30th March to Sunday 2nd April 2017

The first ever joint field meeting of the British Isopod Study Group and the British Myriapod Group was held at St Martin's College, Lancaster in April 1983. Twenty-eight members attended what seems to have been a busy weekend in the field with visits to eight coastal and limestone sites around Morecambe Bay, and sessions in lecture room and bar and all at a cost

of less than £30. St Martin's College no longer caters for groups such as ours, we rarely attract meeting attendances so high and inflation has had its impact but we are heading back to Morecambe Bay in 2017.

There is no record of the woodlice recorded during the 1983 meeting but 22 species of millipede and 16 species of centipede are listed in the meeting report in BMG Newsletter 2. The finding of both *Brachychaeteuma bagnalli* and *B. bradeae* along with a variant that could not be ascribed to either species from Meathop Wood (VC 69) was described and the specimens figured and discussed by Gordon Blower in BMG Bulletin 3. It would be interesting to find more specimens from this site to shed more light on the true status of the variant.

In addition to the sites explored in 1983, Morecambe provides a good base for exploring a wide range of habitats in areas such as the Forest of Bowland, the southern Lake District and the northern Pennines. Visits to ornamental gardens may be organised also.

We will be based right in the centre of Morecambe for the 2017 meeting. I have provisionally reserved every room in a seafront guesthouse for the weekend. The guesthouse has a television lounge and a dining room / bar that can be used for evening meetings. Breakfast is served in the dining room but there are no evening meals provided so we will need to find a local establishment (there are plenty nearby) for each evening meal and arrange our own packed lunches.

Twelve bedrooms including single, twin, triple and double rooms, all with en-suite facilities, will be available so there will be beds for somewhere between 17 and 20 depending mainly on how many want or are willing to share a room. Six of the rooms have been reserved already so please book AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you want to attend the meeting. A booking form can be downloaded from the BMIG website (<https://www.bmig.org.uk>).

The standard rate will be £90 per person for the whole meeting for a shared or double room but note that this is a **bed and breakfast only** cost. Single occupancy for the whole weekend, again bed and breakfast only, will be £120 per person.

Send your Booking Form (at the end of this newsletter) and a deposit of £30.00 (cheques should be made payable to "British Myriapod & Isopod Group") to Paul Lee at the address listed at the end of the newsletter.

Please also contact Paul if you need additional information or have any queries.

A centipede to look out for – *Lamyctes africanus*.

Amongst accounts of unexpected centipedes in Northern Europe in recent years was that of *Lamyctes africanus* (Porat, 1871) from outdoor sites in Denmark by Henrik Enghoff and his colleagues (Enghoff et al, 2013). The species has also been recorded from greenhouses in Scotland and in the Czech Republic (Dányi & Tuf, 2016) and from a number of outdoor localities in Germany (Decker et al, in litt.). The Scottish record was made a number of years ago and referred to in a myriapod congress paper (Barber, 1992) but no details were published and the species was not included in the AIDGAP and Linnean Society keys (Barber, 2009)..

Charles Rawcliffe had collected a number of specimens in greenhouses at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in 1987, a location from which he had previously collected the first British specimens of the species we now refer to as *Lithobius lapidicola*.

These were examined by the late Ted Eason and as well as *Lithobius melanops*, *L. forficatus* and *Lamyctes fulvicornis* (now known as *L. emarginatus*) there were several specimens (all females) which he referred to *Lamyctes africana*. Looking at my notes & letters I see that these were one from shelves in the Tropical House service area, 01.05.1986 (C66) and three from House 20, Tropical, 07.08.1986 (C95). The BMIG Linlithgow meeting in 2015, when a visit was made to RBGE greenhouses, did not find the species again.

In his letter, Ted remarked that he would have not spotted the specimens if he had not seen many similar ones from Africa and other parts of the tropics. He explained, in his usual thorough and helpful way, that in *Lamyctes fulvicornis*, the lateral sternal teeth (of the forcipular coxosternite) are dentiform, the median sinus fairly even, a tibial spine on the 11th leg (1-11) and the genital spurs on the posterior edge of the basal segment of the gonopod. *L. africana* has a spiniform lateral tooth, the median sinus is usually sinuous, there is a tibial spine on the 12th leg and the genital spurs are often shorter and set on the medial edge of the basal segment of the gonopod.

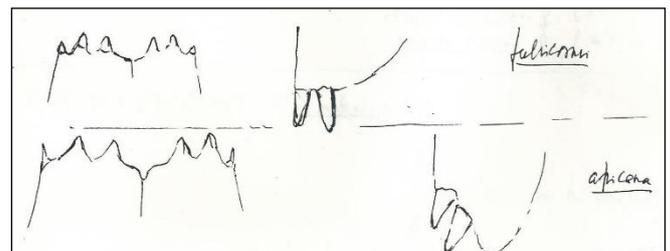


Fig.1 Prosternal teeth and gonopod spurs of the two species as sketched by EHE in a letter to ADB of 02.09.1988

The latter species is usually smaller with 2,2,2,2 coxal pores and frequently (though not in these particular specimens) with antennal articles in excess of 25 but they are not easy to separate and the *L. africana* from C95 has a lateral tooth feebly dentiform on one side and spiniform on the other. He commented that there were some unusually small and seemingly adult *fulvicornis* in the RBG that made the situation rather confusing. He also noted that unfortunately almost all specimens, including these noted, lack the 15th legs (& usually also the 13th & 14th) but that he thought it would be found that these legs in *africana* are longer and more slender than in *fulvicornis*.

In the Danish description, the living animal is described as bright orange-brown with orange yellow antennae and legs and with conspicuous black

markings around the pale eyes (similar to a “raccoon mask”). The bases of the antennae often become darker after death and the black markings become less obvious. Body length of females with fully developed gonopods 7-10mm. Antennae with 28-29 articles in the vast majority of specimens but some with less. Other features noted include the presence of a distal spinal projection on the 12th tibia, features of the 15th legs and characteristics of the claw of those legs. A tabular comparison of *L.emarginatus*, *L.albipes* and *L.africanus* is given in Table 1 below.

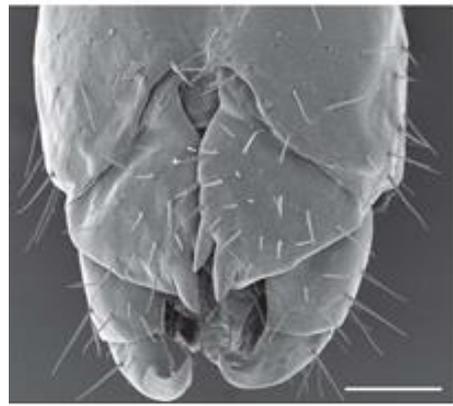


Fig.4 *Lamyctes africanus*, gonopods (from Enghoff et al, 2013)

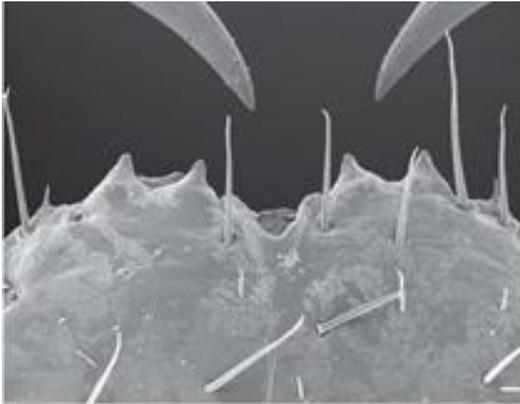


Fig. 2 *Lamyctes africanus*, coxosternite teeth (from Enghoff et al, 2013)

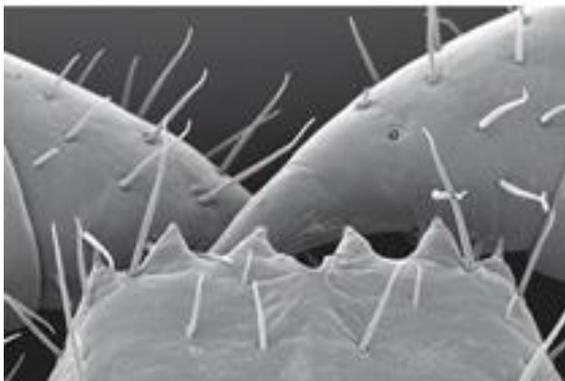


Fig.3 *Lamyctes emarginatus*, coxosternite teeth (from Enghoff et al, 2013)

Lamyctes africanus was first described (as *Henicops Africana*) from South Africa (“Caffraria”) and there are reliable records from South-west Australia, Île St.Paul (Indian Ocean) and Hawai’i according to Enghoff et al as well as a possible record from France.

The species is clearly similar to *Lamyctes emarginatus*, a species widespread in Europe including Britain and Ireland and has almost certainly been overlooked in the past. The Danish records were made in the vicinity of railway yards (a possible mode of spread) but there is no reason to regard such habitats as essential. It is quite possible that it will be found in outdoor areas in Britain and it would be useful to look for it here and, if possible to re-examine specimens in personal collections.

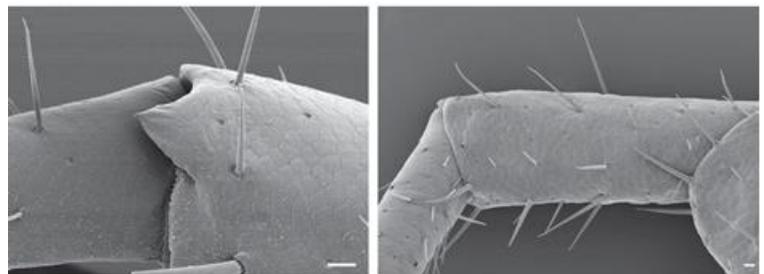


Fig.5 Right tibia of 12th leg of (a) *Lamyctes africanus* (b) *Lamyctes emarginatus*

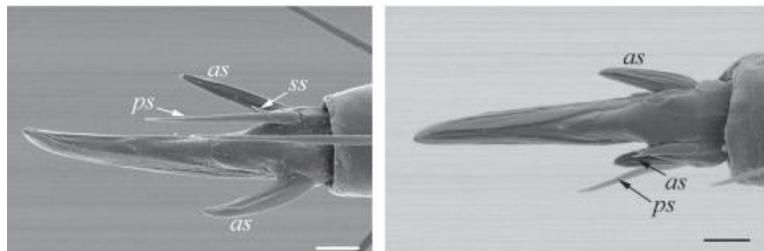


Fig.6 Claw of 12th leg of (a) *Lamyctes africanus* (b) *Lamyctes emarginatus* (from Enghoff et al, 2013)

as: accessory spines, ps: posteroventral spine; ss: subsidiary spine

Barber AD. 1992. *Ber naturwiss med Ver Innsbruck Suppl.* **10**:339–352.

Barber AD (2009) Centipedes. *Synopses of the British Fauna (New Series)* **58**.

Dányi L, Tuf IH (2016) *Zootaxa* **4067 (5)**: 585–588.

Enghoff H, Akkari N, Pedersen J (2013). *Journal of Natural History* **47**: 1–24.

	<i>L. emarginatus</i>	<i>L. africanus</i>
Body length	6.5 - 11mm	7 - 10mm
Antennal articles	(24-) 25 – (29)	(23-) 28-29
Forcipular coxosternite & prodont shoulder	Prodont on angular-pointed shoulder giving appearance of a 3 rd forcipular tooth	Prodont on convex
Distal spinose projection on 12th tibia	absent	present
Length/width of 15th tibia	3.2 – 3.5	5.0
Length/width of 15th tarsus 1	4.2 – 4.4	6.6 – 8.2
Length/width of 15th tarsus 2	3.2 – 3.7	8.9 – 9.7
Accessory spines on 15th claws	Reaching slightly beyond basal 1/3 of claw	Almost reaching middle of claw
Posteroventral spine on 15th claw	Not reaching beyond basal 1/3 of claw	Reaching beyond middle of claw

A new site for *Metatrichoniscoides leydigii*

The walled garden at Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Nr Barnsley was extensively studied during the BMIG field meeting in 2012 (Richards, 2015). The site uniquely holds two species of millipedes known from nowhere else in the region and an extensive list of woodlice and centipedes. I was recently told that some areas of the garden are being converted into a piggery, so requested that I might visit again, while I had the opportunity. On 10th March 2016, Jim Flanagan and I collected a reasonable variety of species, largely similar to previous lists. However, 'one final stone' before I left revealed a tiny white woodlouse. It initially appeared to have eyes and was provisionally identified as *Trichoniscus pygmaeus*. However, on closer inspection, the 'ocelli' were just dirt and the specimen was evidently blind and therefore a *Metatrichoniscoides* species. Fortunately it was a male and dissection proved clearly that this was *M. leydigii*. This species is considered too 'data deficient' to assign a conservation status in Lee 2015, as it is only known from 2 previous British sites (Gregory 2012). Wentworth most nearly resembles the original Oxford garden centre site.

The area in which it was found is at the edge of a nursery potting area, surrounded by poly-tunnels, cloches and bags of compost. It was among dormant ants, beneath a deeply embedded shaped stone at the garden edge.

Paul Richards

Gregory, S. 2012. *Bulletin of British Myriapod & Isopod Group* **26**

Lee, P. 2015. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR186 Species Status No.23. Natural England

Richards, J.P. 2015. *Bulletin of British Myriapod & Isopod Group* **28**



Metatrichoniscoides leydigii

A new record of the woodlice *Porcellio laevis* from Allen House Grounds in Guilford, Surrey

During the BMIG's last annual field meeting at Juniper Hall in Surrey Paul Richards, Derek Whiteley and myself decided to make for the Guilford area to look for potentially interesting sites where equally interesting synanthropic species of Myriapods and Isopods might be encountered. As soon as we entered Guildford we noted that the area we were heading to contained the boundary of two 10km hectads (SU94 and TQ04). This site formerly contained the historic Allen House Mansion and gardens which was gifted to Guilford Borough Council in 1914 and became public open space.

Walking into the central part of the grounds I was drawn to walking along the southern path along which were flower beds with, at intervals, cast iron benches with wood supports up against the southern wall. By the side of one of these benches were a few small stone slabs lying flat on one side of a flower bed

(SU99984978). On lifting one of these, close to the wall, I found a number of woodlice some of which were very distinctive in having very long uropods. On showing a specimen to Paul Richards (his face was a picture!) he immediately recognised it as *Porcellio laevis*, a species he had never seen and which was last recorded in Britain nearly twenty years ago from the Wirral. A total of a dozen or more specimens were found to be present in mixed company with the woodlice *Porcellio scaber* and *Armadillidium vulgare*.

Analysis of accumulated records appears to show *P. laevis* to be a mainly synanthropic species. The early records showed this to be a widely reported species, and even common in some locations. However, the British and Irish populations are suspected to have experienced a long decline which may have coincided soon after the arrival of railways into many areas of the country resulting in less demand for horse-drawn transport and stabling facilities, and later in the mechanisation of agricultural production and also their replacement by trams and buses in urban transport systems (Harding, in press). The small numbers encountered at Allen House Grounds could be part of a relic of a once larger and more widespread population that prevailed during the 'Coaching Era' of the town. Prior to the establishment of railway links to the town in 1845 Guildford was for a long period an important stopover for horse-drawn transport routes to Portsmouth and other south coast locations (H. Chapman Davies, 2010) and it was also important for east west routes such as Pilgrim's Way connecting

Winchester with Canterbury (Harding, pers. comm.). Tired horses could no doubt be changed for fresh in this ancient transport hub and Guildford's stabling facilities must have once been very extensive with an abundance of manure readily available for local use in parks, gardens, orchards, allotments and fields. This state of affairs perhaps supported a fairly thriving population for a time

The grounds were also found to support a diverse range of other synanthropic Myriapod species including the woodlice *Porcellio dilatatus* and the millipede *Cylindroiulus vulnerarius* (S. Gregory, pers. comm.) Other surviving old gardens in Guildford (like the ornamental garden at Stoke Park several hundred metres to the north and possibly even the rather well-maintained grounds of Guildford Castle Gardens (450m to the south-west) might be visited to look for further local populations of *P. laevis*.

Acknowledgements: many thanks to Paul Harding for constructive discussions about the possible origin of

the Guildford population and for letting me have access to a paper he has written to be published in the BMIG Bulletin providing much information on the history of British and Irish *Porcellio laevis* populations.

Jim Flanagan

Chapman Davies, H. (2010). Guildford's Hidden History, Amberley Publishing, Guildford



Photograph taken by the author of the first specimen of the woodlouse *Porcellio laevis* picked up for closer examination at Allen House Grounds, Guildford.

'Border Collies' and other colour variations in *Porcellio scaber*

I started some (humane) experiments with colour variations in woodlice in the early 1990's following many years of keeping woodlouse cultures in the home and in a shed for helping with preparing small skeletons for a comparative bone reference collection. I have always kept mixed groups of woodlice, mostly *Porcellio scaber* and *Armadillidium vulgare*, with some *Oniscus asellus* in more enclosed old fish tanks. The woodlice have been kept in old fish tanks and large potting trays. These containers have been landscaped with a charcoal and gravel drainage base layer, compost, areas of leaves, cut grass, sticks, pieces of wood/bark, ceramic tiles, pine cones and flowerpots for shelter, there is usually one or two ferns or ivies kept growing in the tank. Occasionally I grow patches of seeds – cress, grass, salad leaves. A diet of a variety of vegetable and fruit peelings (including mushrooms) or old vegetables/fruit are provided, sometimes supplemented with rabbit or deer droppings, leaves, acorns, conkers, etc. Some of the woodlice get the occasional frog, toad, rodent or small bird to clean to the skeletons before I then remove the bones. For a constant source of calcium I do provide cuttlefish and land or freshwater shells. Woodlice are transferred into new homes with some of their own droppings. Dampness is varied within the

tank, with very damp areas to very dry zones. For my basic woodlouse cultures, I have always been keen to add new stock by collecting new woodlice to add occasionally.

Experiments were with colour variations, mostly with *Porcellio scaber*. My cultures had contained a variety of colours including reds, red/grey mottled, yellow, yellow grey mottled, brown, brown mottled. Fresh trays were set up and only colour variations of *P. scaber* were removed from the main tanks and placed in the new tanks. Within a year these woodlice had bred and were producing greater variation and numbers of coloured individuals, many with white areas on the body, sometimes with a white leg or complete or partial white antenna – some described as ‘Border Collie’ in the black and white patching - see figs. 1 and 2.



Figure 1: *P. scaber* colour variation.



Figure 2: *P. scaber* colour variation.

The next stage was to separate and isolated the *P. scaber* that showed these white features and these were separated and placed into a newly prepared tray. These allowed to breed, with more of these offspring showing colour variations generally, more with white patches and a new variation of largely all white (Plate 3), but showing a pale grey line down the central body – with several individuals showing this largely white variation. Most offspring produced have developed the normal grey colouring or common colourations of orange, brown, etc.

These experiments were repeated several times with similar results. Live specimens and/or photographs have been shown to others with an interest in woodlice, some of whom have kept cultures themselves. So far, others have not seen these variations of white areas or largely white, even in cultures and it is so far assumed to be a result of separation of the individuals showing a colour variation. Despite a life of keeping woodlice and searching for woodlice in the wild, I have not seen these in any other environment other than in the separation tanks.

Ideas for the reasons for these white variations have so far been:

1. Genetic. Similar to the natural variations seen in birds – for example: Blackbirds with white areas varying from a single white feather to albino.
2. ‘Unnatural/artificial surroundings’ – lack of a greater variation in species (and their droppings, etc).
3. Use of tap water - although most for the woodlice is filtered.
4. Stress of isolation.

The aim of this article has been to inform others in the group of these variations and hopefully to get feedback on others seen. I would be interested to hear from others who have seen similar and would be interested in seeing other photographs.

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www.sylvanuservices.com.

Cylindroiulus appeninorum on the Isle of White

The paper “Centipedes and Millipedes from Ventnor Botanic Gardens including a species new to Britain” has recently been published (*Proc. Isle of Wight Nat. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* **30**: 88-93). I have sent copies of the paper as a pdf to a number of people but if you would like one please e-mail. The report includes pictures of living *Cylindroiulus appeninorum* courtesy of Paul Richards. (Unfortunately Chris Owen’s picture of a *Cryptops anomalans* included has been mis-labeled).

Matty Berg tells me that in The Netherlands they have several populations of *C. appeninorum* under basically natural conditions, coniferous forest in the middle-west part of the country and *Populus alba* forests along the inner dunes along the western coast.

Tony Barber

Field Studies Council “Biolink”: online survey

The FSC is currently developing a new and exciting Biodiversity project: BioLinks. This will involve strengthening the existing biological recording networks of the West Midlands and London regions through several activities (such as training courses for difficult-to-identify data deficient species groups, use of local museum collections, field recording events and creation of technological resources to support recorders).

A series of public consultations are occurring across the West Midlands and London regions (<http://www.field-studies-council.org/about/fsc-projects/current-projects/biolinks.aspx>) and a national online survey has been launched to establish how the biological recording sector and its volunteers would like projects such as BioLinks to focus their efforts. This survey will result in a report that will be made publicly available to the sector so that the results can be used by other projects and organisations. The project officer, Keiron Brown, has requested that the online survey is shared with the national recording schemes and societies in case they are interested in sharing this with their members, recorders and social media followers. The survey can be found at <http://goo.gl/forms/GBzmlQYTOK>.

Tony Barber

Some thoughts on centipede data from John Lewis

Some while ago John Lewis wrote a note “Biological data on centipedes”. It may have been previously published in the Newsletter but nevertheless the time seems opportune to circulate it again and maybe some of the points are also relevant to recording both millipedes and woodlice.

Thanks to the members of the BMIG a great deal of valuable information on distribution has been collected and recorded. However, field observations on the biology of centipedes have rarely been recorded. They were more common in publications in the 19th and earlier parts of the 20th century.

The fact that centipedes are rarely seen to be “doing anything” makes such observations all the more valuable. Any information on the following whether made in the field or in simple laboratory experiments would be of great interest and could be published under Miscellanea in the Bulletin.



Figure 1: *Geophilus carpophagus*. Photo taken by J.P. Richards for the BMIG website.

Suggestions:

Behaviour. Surface activity in the day or at night. Records of centipedes in buildings or up trees. Any responses when disturbed – possible escape reactions.

Feeding. Prey and method of capture. Group feeding. Any observations on the use of the ultimate legs of *Cryptops* (or any other scolopendromorphs) would be valuable. Any plant associations.

Predators. Method/direction of attack, any parts discarded.

Reproduction. Egg-laying, brooding (with accurate description of posture, number of eggs/larvae and their colour). Please preserve eggs in 70% ethanol.

Colour. Any unusual colour or colour pattern.

Inter- and intra-specific reactions. Same or different species found in close proximity (e.g. under same rock). Different stadia together? Exact habitat, position on sea-shore of *Strigamia maritima* and *Geophilus gracilis* (*Geophilus fucorum seurati*). Do they occur together?

Luminescence. Do both *Geophilus carpophagus* (ss) and *G. easoni* luminesce? Likewise *Strigamia acuminata* and *S. crassipes*. Any other records?

Structural abnormalities. Segmental abnormalities have been recorded in continental specimens of *Stigmatogaster subterranea* (*Haplophilus subterraneus*) but, strangely, not in British specimens. Is this because we haven't looked?

Anything else.

John Lewis

Notes following John Lewis

Luminescence does seem to occur in both *Geophilus carpophagus* (ss) and *G. easoni* but clearly much more data on this phenomenon in centipede species would be most welcome. I have also found an older record from Sussex by John Bratton (1984) of a female *Strigamia crassipes* leaving a trail of drops of luminous liquid. Caught about 11pm, after dark.

Structural abnormalities do occur in British *Stigmatogaster subterranea* (*Haplophilus subterraneus*) – 12 out of 35 individuals from Devon & Cornwall (Leśniewska, 2012) but it would be valuable to have more data on this phenomenon in this or in other species. It also occurs in *Stigmatogaster souletina* (*Haplophilus souletinus*) - 7 out of 14 in a British sample (Leśniewska & Barber, 2014). Barber (1969) reported sternite abnormalities in the region of S25-S29 in a specimen of *Stenotaenia linearis* (as *Clinopodes linearis*) from Surrey. This would suggest that abnormalities of this sort are not confined to the family Himantariidae and that looking for them in other species could be useful.

Tony Barber

Barber, A.D. (1969) *Ent. Monthly Mag.* **105**:85-92

Leśniewska, M. (2012) *Morphological abnormalities in Haplophilus subterraneus* (Shaw, 1794) (Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha). Poznań, Wydawnictwo Kontekst.

Leśniewska, M. & Barber, A.D. (2014) *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group* **27**: 38-40.

Book review – historical interest

Prag, A.J.N.W. 2016 (editor). *The story of Alderley. Living with the Edge*. Manchester University Press, Manchester, 984 pages. ISBN: 978-0-7190-9171-1. £50.

In the 1990s two events led to the creation of a wide-ranging project to examine the Alderley Edge area in great, multi-disciplinary, detail. First, Alan Garner presented to the Manchester Museum a wooden shovel which was originally found in Brynlow Level in 1878 but lost for many years. The Museum had the wood radio carbon dated and I guess nearly fell over when told it dated from 1750 BC, i.e. 3750 years before the present, in the Bronze age. The second influence was the discovery, by the Derbyshire Caving Club, of a cache of 500 Roman coins dating from around 330 AD. These events are lyrically described in Chapter 1 of the book:

“This is the SHOVEL that dug the COPPER, that fetched the Roman, who sunk the SHAFT that hid the POT till we found it.

It was clear that the area was of the utmost historical interest but, and this is the crucial decision, it was quickly understood that this must be examined firmly within the context of the area. So was born the Alderley Edge Landscape Project (AELP) which was formally created on 1st December 1996. This current book is the second to appear in the time since then, the first (Timberlake and Prag 2005) being primarily aimed at the archaeology. But the whole of the rest of the AELP was still ongoing when that book was published and it is only now, with the production of the massive, and massively valuable and readable, *The story of Alderley*, that we can get the big picture laid out in all of its glory. And glorious in an apt term for this piece of work. The main text sections are: Part I. Introductory: Two chapters setting out why and how the AELP was conceived, planned and conducted. Part II. The bed rock of the Edge: Five chapters setting the geological and geographic background. Part III. The natural history: Six chapters from the lowliest plants, through the trees, the invertebrate life (in a quite superb

chapter of 82 pages by Dmitri Logunov), and the birds. Part IV. Human history: Five chapters on the archaeology and the mining and quarrying of the area. Part V. Human history: Ten chapters on all aspects of the social history of the area covering a bewilderingly wide span of subjects including (as examples) graffiti, street names and the reason there are so many big expensive houses there. The book's main text is drawn to a close in Part VI. Looking back, looking forward: Three chapters of concluding comments and ideas for the future. This book has been twenty years in the making and took 34 authors a lot of writing. Of course it took vastly more than 34 people to garner this incredible collation of facts and interpretation and we should be more than grateful to the editor, but so much more than just that, John Prag, for spending those years in order that we may educate ourselves in such a comprehensive fashion. It will keep you in the most fascinating reading for weeks on end. And a word on the production of the book by Manchester University Press – hardback and flawless, an example to all publishers.

Centipede hunting with cats – a new collecting technique?



I have recently been sent a photograph of a large centipede (5-6 cm) that a cat brought in to the house from a garden in the BS15 area of Bristol. The sender regularly saw centipedes but tells me he had never before seen one this size. The animal was later released. The specimen is undoubtedly one of the two larger species of *Cryptops* and, on the basis of its size, most likely *Cryptops anomalans* of which there are a number of records in the area. This is the first record I have of cats catching centipedes and I would be interested in knowing if anyone else has any similar stories. Makes the completion of a record card just that more interesting!

Tony Barber

Round BMIG Quiz

An occasional brain-teaser where you need to find the link between a notable locality for individual BMIG species with other information about a locality. It will involve some detective work and probably some use of your favourite search engine.

For example: *What is the link (a county) between the first locality in England for a hairy pill woodlouse, a very flat county and the first county naturalists trust?*

The answer is Norfolk, but you need to show your working – *Eluma caelatum* at Overstrand, Norfolk (see p. 107 of Steve Gregory's atlas); "Very flat Norfolk" – a famous quote from the play "Private Lives" by Noel Coward; The Norfolk Naturalists Trust founded 1926.

Easy? – Now try this one: *What place in Wales links a decorated woodlouse, a 20th century English sculptor and typeface designer, Father Ignatius of Jesus and possibly Bruce Chatwin's Vision?*

Think you know the answers? No prizes, but email pha@ceh.ac.uk

Journal articles:

Barber, T. (2016). Centipedes and millipedes from Ventnor Botanic Gardens including a species new to Britain. *Proc. Isle of Wight Nat. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* **30**, 88-93.

Accounts from the Isle of Wight including a species list and discussion on the diversity seen in the gardens compared with Kew gardens.

Upcoming events of interest

Plymouth Bioblitz

The 2016 bioblitz in Plymouth will be running from 10:00 on 14th October to 15:00 on 15th October. Base camp is at the Marine Biological Association Laboratory at Citadel Hill.

www.mba.ac.uk/bioblitz

Workshop: An introduction to woodlice, millipedes and centipedes.

Run by Steve Gregory at the BENHS headquarters in Reading. October 15th 10:30-16:00. Free.

<http://www.benhs.org.uk/event/workshop-introduction-woodlice-millipedes-centipedes/>

17th International Congress of Myriapodology

This year will be held in Krabi, Thailand 23-26th July 2017. With a keynote speech from Greg Edgecombe.

<http://www.17icm.sc.chula.ac.th/>

Next issue – Spring 2017

The next instalment of the newsletter will be available in the spring of next year. If you have any news, interesting findings or photos that you would like featured please send them to the newsletter editor at the email address below by the 10th February 2017. Please also let us know of any relevant upcoming meetings, workshops or events that may be of interest to other members.

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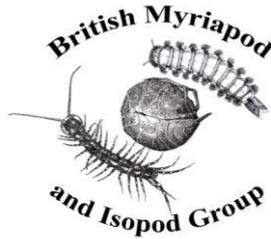
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Annual Field Meeting and AGM

Morecambe, Lancashire

Thursday 30th March to Sunday 2nd April 2017

Venue: The 2017 meeting will be based in Morecambe. We have provisionally reserved every room in a seafront guesthouse for the weekend. The guesthouse has a television lounge and a dining room / bar that can be used for evening meetings. Single, twin, triple and double rooms will be available so there will be beds for somewhere between 17 and 20 depending mainly on how many want a double room. All rooms have en-suite facilities. Towels and bedding are all provided.

Surrounding area: Morecambe provides a good base for exploring a wide range of habitats in areas such as the Forest of Bowland, the Lake District, the northern Pennines and around Morecambe Bay. Visits to synanthropic sites such as ornamental gardens and parkland may also be organised.

Travel: Morecambe is readily accessible by car from the M6. Free roadside parking is available. Morecambe station is less than 750m away from the guesthouse.

Booking:

- Please book AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you want to attend the meeting. Download a booking form from the website (<https://www.bmig.org.uk>).
- The standard rate will be £90 per person for the whole meeting for a shared or double room but note that this is a **bed and breakfast only** cost. Single occupancy for the whole weekend, again bed and breakfast only, will be £120 per person. We will need to find a local establishment (there are plenty nearby) for each evening meal and arrange our own packed lunches.
- Please indicate any special dietary requirements.

Payment: Full payment will be on invoice which will be sent by the end of January – payment due by the end of February at the latest. **No last minute booking/payment.**

Send your Booking Form and deposit of £30.00 (cheques should be made payable to "British Myriapod & Isopod Group") to:

Paul Lee, Little Orchard, Bentley, Ipswich IP9 2DW

E-mail: arachne2222@aol.com

Please contact me if you need additional information or have any queries.

**British Myriapod and Isopod Group
Morecambe, Lancashire**

Thursday 30th March to Sunday 2nd April 2017

Please return to:

Post: Paul Lee, Little Orchard, Bentley, Ipswich IP9 2DW E-mail: arachne2222@aol.com

Name(s):
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone:
Mobile:
Email:

Please book me in for the following (PLEASE TICK RELEVANT BOXES):

- The *shared room rate* (£90) includes bed and breakfast for Thursday to Sunday.
- The *single room rate* (£120) includes bed and breakfast for Thursday to Sunday.

	Shared room	Single Room
Thursday 30th March to Sunday 2nd April		

Special dietary requirements – please tick one box				
Vegan	Vegetarian + dairy	Vegetarian + fish	Vegetarian + dairy + fish	Other – please specify below

Please enclose a deposit of £30 per person and tick here _____ if a receipt is required.

Cheques should be made payable to “British Myriapod & Isopod Group”

I would be willing to give a talk/report/ etc in the evening
Topic: