# Newsletter 36
# Spring 2018

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I did say in my last editorial that I hoped a new Newsletter Editor would be elected at the AGM in March and indeed a volunteer has come forward, so for the second time I am compiling my 'final' issue. I am still keen to hear from members willing to be involved in running BMIG to ensure continuity.

In this issue you can read about yet more new species discovered from South Wales – more to look forward to for those of you attending the meeting at Longtown, Herefordshire in March. Myriapods in northern England are well documented with articles on *Henia vesuviana* (see photo above) and *Leptoiulus belgicus* in "Sorbyshire" and woodlice get their share of column inches with reports of new locations for *Philoscia affinis* and *Trichoniscoides sarsi*. Even the landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* is not forgotten, so please read on.

If you have any interesting reports, news items or photos for the next issue in autumn 2018 then please send them before 10th September to my email address (found at the bottom of the newsletter) for the moment. I will pass anything I receive to the new editor.

*Paul Lee*

**BMIG Field Weekend 22nd to 25th March 2018**

BMIG are meeting at Longtown, Herefordshire on the Welsh border for our annual get together in 2018. From our Herefordshire base we intend to search the Welsh Valleys where so many interesting things have turned up of late.

We are fortunate that Thomas Wesener of the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig in Bonn will be joining us for the meeting. During the weekend he has agreed to give a talk entitled: The German Myriapoda DNA Barcoding Project - Combining efforts of Scientists and Amateurs. Also, Thomas will lead a discussion session introducing many of his own research topics such as micro-endemism including cave fauna, mining, myriapods in Madagascar and the implications of the IUCN Red List.

All rooms at the Crown Inn are now full. We might just be able to squeeze in one more male willing to share a room and members can make their own arrangements at local B&Bs. In either case, please contact Paul Harding as soon as possible if you are interested; the 22nd March is not very far away.

**AGM notice**

All BMIG members are invited to attend the 18th AGM of BMIG to be held at the Crown Inn, Longtown, Herefordshire on Friday 23rd March 2018 at 7pm.

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 17th AGM held on 30 March 2017 at Morecambe
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Recording Scheme Reports
7. Librarian & Collection Manager's Report
8. Election of Officers
9. Appointment of financial examiner
10. Future meetings
11. Any other business
12. Records from meeting
13. Thanks to meeting organiser

**Officer Elections**

By the AGM many of the officers will have served their first three year term. The existing officers are eligible for re-election but we encourage all members to consider becoming more involved in running BMIG and put themselves forward for election. Additionally, there are several roles that have never been filled. Ideally nominations would be communicated to the secretary Helen Read beforehand but they can also be made from the floor at the AGM. Officers to be elected during the AGM are:

1. Chairman
2. Vice-Chairman
3. Treasurer
4. Newsletter Editor – a new volunteer has come forward and will be nominated for election at the AGM
5. Bulletin Chief Editor
6. Centipede Recording Scheme Organiser
7. Millipede Recording Scheme Organiser
8. Woodlouse and Waterlouse Recording Scheme Organiser
9. Librarian and Collections Manager
10. Field Meeting Co-ordinator – I would like to see a new face getting involved in organising the meetings. Potential venues for future meetings in Derbyshire, Devon and Dorset have been found already.
11. Website Manager
12. Social Media Manager
13. Training Officer – This role has remained vacant since its creation.
14. Projects Officer – Another vacant role.
15. Conservation Office – Although strictly 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.
16. BENHS representative

In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of their role, the first eight officers listed above are automatically members of the BMIG committee that guides the direction the organization takes. Other officers may be co-opted onto the committee which meets at least once each year before the AGM and sometimes in the autumn as well.

*Paul Lee*

**More millipedes from The Valleys**

In early November Christian Owen paid another visit to Craig yr Aber; the site where *Ommatoiulus moreleti* and *Cylindroiulus pyrenaicus* were

discovered new to Britain last spring (see paper in current BMIG Bulletin 30: http://www.bmig.org.uk/resource/bmig-bulletin-volume-30-2018). On this occasion he picked up a brown Chordeumatidan millipede that appeared on external morphology to be identical to *Turdulisoma cf helenreadae* Mauriès 2015, the Maerdy Monster (see BMIG Newsletter 34 - http://www.bmig.org.uk/view/resource/bmig-newsletter). However, examination of the male gonopods clearly said otherwise! I sent images of a dissected male to Jörg Spelda and he rapidly came back with a name: *Turdulisoma cf tudulorum* Mauriès 1964 (a species described from northern Portugal). As with *T. cf helenreadae,* Jörg commented that the Welsh specimens seem to differ sufficiently from the type description to warrant the erection of a new species. Images of live specimens can be seen at http://www.bmig.org.uk/species/Turdulisoma-cf-turdulorum. Later in the month I was given a guided tour of Craig yr Aber by Christian (in the company of Keith Lugg, Mark Telfer and Liam Olds) and we found specimens of all three above mentioned species. We also found specimens of *Ceratosphys amoena confusa* and *Hylebainosoma nontronensis* (two additional millipede specialities of the Welsh Valleys) and also specimens of the centipedes *Lithobius pilicornis* and *L. piceus.* Needless to say, Craig yr Aber is listed as a 'must see' site during BMIG's 2018 spring field meeting based near the Welsh Valleys.

Just a few days later Christian emailed me an image of a darkly pigmented *Cylindroiulus* '*punctatus'* millipede, that he had collected from Wyllie Wood, near Newbridge, Monmouthshire (ST177943, VC 35). The specimen clearly bore a distinctly projecting, but pointed telson (in the ubiquitous *C. punctatus*, a generally less well pigmented millipede, the telson is characteristically club-shaped – widest at its tip). Initially, Christian assumed this to be an anomalous *C. punctatus* with a damaged telson. However, upon finding this to be the dominant millipede within and beneath dead wood at Wyllie Wood he rapidly changed his mind. Christian sent me a male specimen, which I identified as *Cylindroiulus sagittarius* (Brölemann, 1897) (a determination agreed by Hans Reip). Images of the live animal can be seen on the BMIG website: http://www.bmig.org.uk/species/Cylindroiulus-sagittarius. The known range of *C. sagittarius* is centred on the western Pyrenees where it occupies a similar 'dead-wood' niche to *C. punctatus*, but typically occurs at higher altitudes within Montane forest between 550–2000m asl (Kime & Enghoff, 2017). A description of *C. sagittarius*, based on Welsh material, is being prepared for the BMIG Bulletin.

Reference: Kime, R.D. & Enghoff, H**.** (2017) Atlas of European millipedes 2: Order Julida (Class Diplopoda). *European Journal of Taxonomy*, **346**: 1-299. https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2017.346

*Steve Gregory*

**Additional UK records of *Philoscia affinis***

The discovery of *Philoscia affinis* in south east England, with notes on identification and habitat preferences, is reported in BMIG Bulletin Vol. 30 (2018) – if you have not already done so, download your copy from: http://www.bmig.org.uk/resource/bmig-bulletin-volume-30-2018. In light of this discovery I checked through my reference collection of *Philoscia muscorum* specimens. It appears I had just the one tube! (Who keeps reference specimens of *Philoscia*?) To my surprise this turned out to be a tube of *Philoscia affinis* (a male, plus several females) collected from 'near Oban' (NM8-2-, western Scotland) in October 2007. I can only assume that these were collected because they looked a bit odd. If only I'd actually checked the male specimen! Then in November I took my partner away to north Wales for her birthday. We (team effort!) found a single female specimen of a pale headed *Philoscia* in acidic deciduous woodland at Dolgoch Falls in north Wales (SH650043). Although not a confirmed record for *P. affinis* (ideally identification should be based on a male specimen), Frank Nöel, who's familiar with the species in France, commented that the specimen showed typical habitus of female *P. affinis* (rather than female *P. muscorum*). Then in December, Keith Lugg took his partner on a birthday bash to Slapton Ley in south Devon (SX82-43-) and guess what? They found a male *P. affinis*, and a few likely females (among typical black-headed yellow-spotted *P. muscorum*). Keith's theory; take your partner on holiday and you'll find *P. affinis*!

*Steve Gregory*

## ***Leptoiulus belgicus* in t' North**

Paul first found *Leptioulus belgicus* as new to Yorkshire at Stainborough, Barnsley (SE318034) in August 2010 (BMIG Newsletter No.21). This was an isolated site considerably further north than the normal South-west and Welsh main distribution. However, during 2017 this species has cropped up in 4 further sites locally, including the first two for Derbyshire. On 15th November 2017 Derek reported this species in a derelict garden in central Chesterfield, Derbys (Newsletter of Sorby Natural History Society, January 2018). He had also recently found it on 19th October on a disused railway track at Worsborough, just a few kilometres from the Stainborough site. Just before Christmas on 23rd December, he found a second Derbyshire specimen on a canal retaining wall at Whaley Bridge.

Ironically while picking up a few common species for a Millipede ID workshop Paul was running in November, he also found several adult *L. belgicus*, in Low Spring Wood, Burncross (SK336962, 31.10.17); a first for the Sheffield district. Although the latter was a woodland site, the specimens were found at the perimeter, adjacent to new build properties. The other records are also from disturbed, synanthropic sites. The suggestion is that although occurring more frequently, *Leptoiulus belgicus* still seems to be only found in the north as an introduced species in disturbed sites with imported material. Paul Lee has suggested that the original coastal finds of this species were more to do with climate than a littoral preference. These suburban sites in the north may be allowing *Leptoiulus* to survive due to their protected position. It remains to be seen whether it will establish itself in more natural locations due to any increases in milder climatic conditions.

*Paul Richards and Derek Whiteley*

## A recent increase in the amphipod landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* population in East Sussex

I have been familiar with the introduced terrestrial landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* in my part of East Sussex since 2004 when I noted it in Hastings Country Park on the coast of the English Channel. It was clearly different from the amphipod sandhopper *Talitrus* which occurs in suitable sublittoral habitats in the Hastings area including gardens up to a few hundred metres from the sea. Details of the arrival and spread of *A. dorrieni* and related species in the British Isles are covered very fully in Vol. 29 of this bulletin by Gregory (2016).

Since 2004, despite investigating likely habitats, I have not seen the species often, but last year and early this year there seems to have been somewhat of a population explosion including its occurrence indoors. In January 2018 two dead examples were found under a bed in our bungalow in Sedlescombe, East Sussex, 10 kilometres from the sea and our granddaughter reports it indoors from our garden room and in the public toilets in Alexandra Park, Hastings, as well as frequently outdoors in our garden and her own on the northern outskirts of Hastings.

In Gregory's paper and elsewhere, there has been discussion of the cold tolerance of this Australian amphipod and it has now been recorded from sites much further north than East Sussex and at some distance from the coast. In our area it appears to be starting to exploit indoor habitats, especially where there is sufficient moisture and may, of course, find relatively cold-free environments close to buildings as well as inside and underneath them. We have lived at our address for 45 years so this increase in *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* seems to be a recent development with an ability to overwinter successfully perhaps enabling the population to increase more rapidly in the warmer months.

Reference: Gregory, S.J. (2016) On the terrestrial landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* (Hunt, 1925) (Amphipoda: Talitridae): identification and current distribution. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group* **29**:1-12.

*Patrick Roper*

***Arcitalitrus dorrieni* on mainland France**

The Landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* was introduced to the Isles of Scilly early in the 20th century and is now well established, and locally common, in western and southern Britain and in parts of Ireland (see map in Gregory, 2016 – http://www.bmig.org.uk/resource/bmig-bulletin-volume-29-2016. Although reported from the Channel Isles (Guernsey) there seem to be, perhaps surprisingly, no records from mainland Europe (Cochard, Vilisics & Séchet, 2010). Then, in November I was sent an email by Eric Polidori and Annie Guegant with an attached photo, supporting a possible sighting of *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* in the city of Brest, Brittany, on the coast of northwest France. The image certainly looked like an *Arcitalitrus*, darkly pigmented and with the (short) antennae 1 reaching the basal third of peduncle segment 3 of the (long) antenna 2. In addition, the location, north-west France, has a suitably favourable Atlantic climate, and the habitat, "there is no river, lake or other visible water in the close neighbourhood; it's really a city garden", all sounded spot on. Early in the New Year I received the specimen; a large (18mm) specimen. I had no doubt that it was an *Arcitalitrus* species, but was it *dorrieni*? Among the many characters examined, the apically cleft gill 6 and the presence of 12 robust spines on the telson are typical of *A. dorrieni*. Thus, it appears that the Landhopper does occur on mainland France. If observations in south-west England and south Wales are any indication, then the Landhopper could prove to be widespread in coastal regions of north-west France.

Reference: Cochard, P-O., Vilisics, F. & Séchet, E. (2010) *Alien terrestrial crustaceans (Isopods & Amphipods)*. Chapter 7.1. In Roques, A., *et al* (eds) Alien terrestrial arthropods in Europe. *BioRisk* **4(1)**: 81-96.

*Steve Gregory*

***Trichoniscoides sarsi* in Lincolnshire**

The elusive woodlouse *Trichoniscoides sarsi* has an odd distribution in Britain with records across eastern England from Kent northwards to Suffolk and then extending westwards through Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and into Shropshire. A single isolated record occurs on the east Scottish coast near Aberdeen, over 400 km further north (BMIG Newsletter 22; http://www.bmig.org.uk/view/resource/bmig-newsletter). South of this discrete arc of records, in the well-worked area of central southern England, its congener *T. helveticus* has been recorded instead. A similar mutually exclusive distribution between these two species is also seen in the Netherlands (see Berg (2008) www.bmig.org.uk/content/bmig-bulletin-volume-23-2008). In late December 2017 (during peak Trichoniscid season) Jon Daws visited a churchyard at Sutton on Sea, Lincolnshire (TF5280), about 500m from the sea. Here he encountered a number of red-eyed *Trichoniscoides* woodlice, which he forward to me for identification. Thankfully there were several males, which proved to be *Trichoniscoides sarsi* – a new county record for Lincolnshire. Jon's record also begins to fill the massive gap between the Suffolk coast and that of Aberdeen. If searched for, *T. sarsi* may prove to be widespread along the entire eastern coast of Britain. Certainly, along the neighbouring coast of the Netherlands, *T. sarsi* has been widely recorded, including in the supralittoral zone. In Britain this latter habitat is typically occupied by the 'coastal red-eye' *T. sarsoeensis*, a species, interestingly, not recorded from the Netherlands. Thus, red-eyed *Trichoniscoides* found in the coastal areas of eastern Britain should not be assumed to be our usual *T. sarsoeensis*. A male should be examined, as Mike Davidson did when he made the unexpected discovery of *T. sarsi* near Aberdeen. If you don't check, you'll never know what you've missed!

*Steve Gregory*

***Henia vesuviana* in Sheffield**

While parking up on a side street in Nether Edge, Sheffield (SK341843) back in March 2017, I took a

moment to turn a couple of stones on the grass verge at the back of some houses. I found a very large, grey-green centipede, curled up in a tight ball. It looked every inch to be *Henia vesuviana*, but I've only ever seen that in coastal locations in the very south of England. On searching under a few more stones and pieces of wood I found another individual. I took one for closer examination and it was indeed *Henia*. As they were close to 'fly-tipped' compost behind a fairly well tended garden, I assume they had come via garden rubbish, from introduced plant material. Whatever next!

*Paul Richards*

**A new host for the fungus *Rickia laboulbenioides***

In the previous newsletter (No. 35) I reported the discovery of the ectoparasitic fungus *Rickia laboulbenioides* (Laboulbeniales) on a new host species, *Cylindroiulus pyrenaicus*, and speculated that other host species may turn up. Well, in October my attention was drawn by an image posted by Malcolm Storey on the Pan Species Listing facebook page of a *Cylindroiulus* millipede bearing a Laboulbeniales fungus on its anterior legs. Thankfully the specimen proved to be a male, and thus readily identified as *C. britannicus*. On the basis of Malcolm's high quality images the fungus was identified by Henrik Enghoff as *Rickia laboulbenioides*. This is also a new host species of millipede for this fungus, which is associated with *Cylindroiulus* millipedes. Thus, I re-iterate that this is likely to be an extremely over-looked fungus in Britain. Do look out for the characteristic fungal growths, often on the anterior legs or mouth parts, on any species of millipede, not just *Cylindroiulus*. There are different Laboulbeniales fungi found on other millipede genera. As far as I'm aware Laboulbeniales fungi have never been recorded from a centipede or a woodlouse (but they have been recorded from a wide variety of other arthropod groups). Please, do prove me wrong.

*Steve Gregory*

**Round BMIG Quiz**

Congratulations to Dave Bilton who managed to crack Round BMIG Quiz 3 rapidly, despite my omission of three words in the final clue. Steve Gregory commented that he 'obviously didn't have enough to do' over Christmas but he too managed to solve this particular "Riddle of the Sands". Apologies to all and I hope there are no omissions in Quiz 4.

Quiz 3: "*What place in Ireland links two isopods (one was formerly elusive, the other might have been a railway passenger) with Kate Bush's* Sensual World*, Mrs Bloom's first date, The Ginger Man's house, and gun-running by* [the father of] *a future president*."

The location was Howth, just north of Dublin City. The isopods were *Halophiloscia couchii* (formerly elusive) and *Eluma caelata* which may have been transported to other parts of Ireland with railway ballast. The lyrics to Kate Bush's 'The Sensual World' reference Howth, in *Ulysses* James Joyce has Molly Bloom recalling a visit to Howth Head, and in *The Ginger Man* by J.P. Donleavy, the main character, Stanley Dangerfield, lived "in the town of Howth". Gun-running at Howth harbour in 1914 involved Robert Erskine Childers (author of *The Riddle of the Sands*); his son Erskine Hamilton Childers was the 4th President of Ireland in the mid 1970s. Steve also commented that *Acaeroplastes melanurus* was re-discovered at Howth Head in 2002 having evaded capture for 68 years, but he knows my failure to re-find it in the 1970s still annoys me!

**Round BMIG Quiz 4**

Find the link between a notable locality for individual BMIG species with other information about the locality. Please remember to solve all elements of the puzzle.

*What area in England links an inaugural centipede with a disastrous flood, a funicular railway, feral goats and 'Queen Mab' in 1812?*

Name and explain the species and the locations referred to.

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

**Sorby Invertebrate Group**

This year the Sorby Natural History Society is celebrating its Centenary. It was formed on 1st January 1918 and is still going strong. Sorby Invertebrate Group (SIG) is a semi-autonomous group within the main society and has been active since the mid 1980s. Its main aim is to promote the study and conservation of all invertebrates in our

recording area, affectionately known as “Sorbyshire” (see Figure 1). Biological recording and identification workshops are key functions that occupy most of our time. Disseminating information by publishing is also a priority.

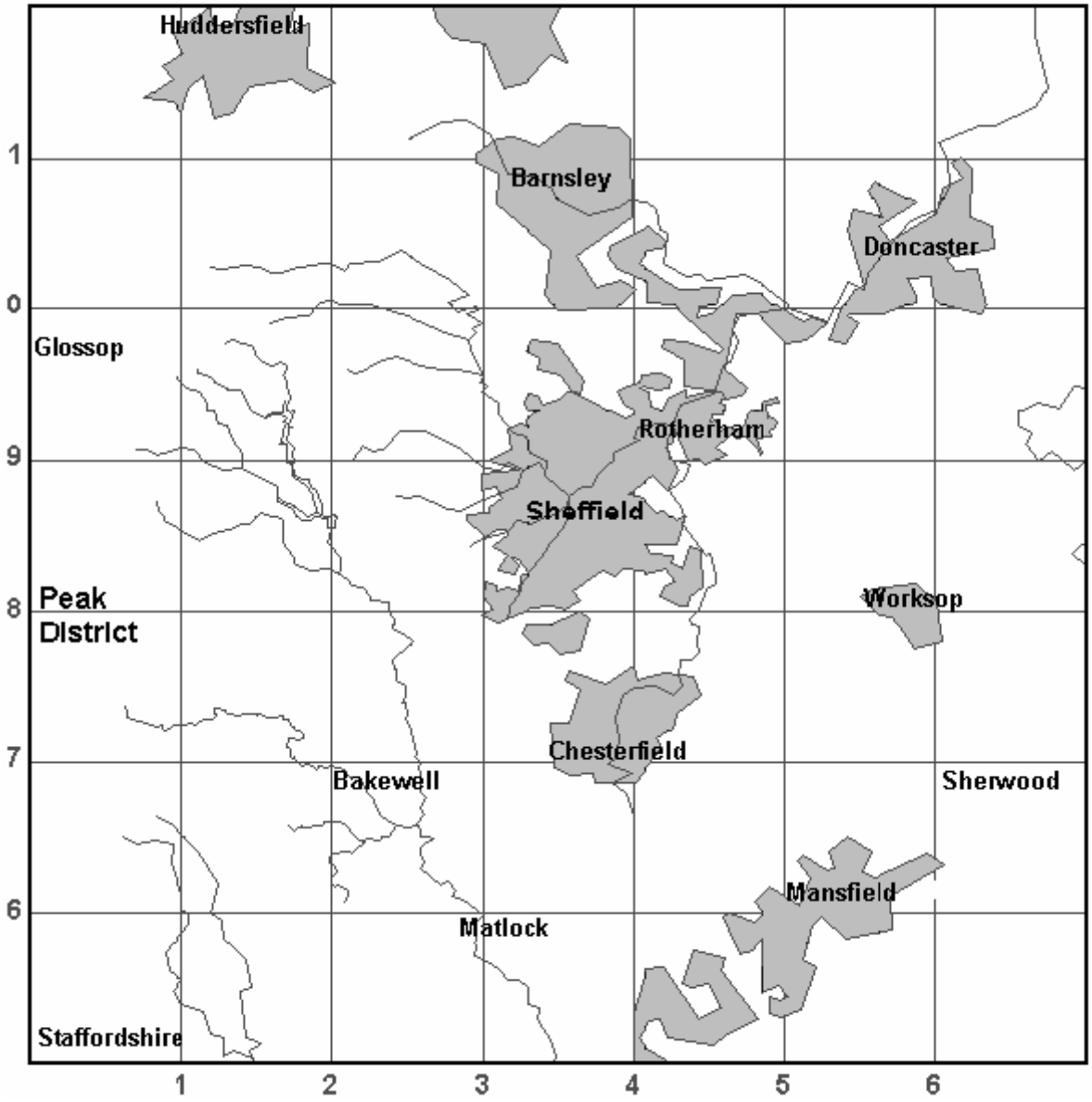


*Figure 1. Map showing the Sorby Natural History Society recording area*

“Sorbyshire”, is very large and varied. It is based on the national grid and covers 4,900 monads (1km grid squares) with an altitude range from just over 2000 feet (610m) to almost sea level. It embraces parts of seven counties, and the Peak National Park, so there is plenty of collaboration with our neighbours.
We run 19 different recording schemes. Paul Richards is our Recorder for Myriapods and Isopods. The dot map below (Figure 2) combines all records from all schemes. It has no scientific value, and its main aim is to encourage members to visit some “white squares” that (apparently) have no records. Still, it shows that field recorders get about a bit. Later this year I hope to be able to produce a similar map for the myriapods and isopods only, but we are still busy digitising existing records. Then we will be able to generate maps for species, to update the published atlas and review (Richards, 1995).

For the past three years SIG has been collaborating with the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership running a series of 20 identification workshops to improve the quantity and quality of biological records, and of course, to recruit new field recorders. With organised site recording visits this has generated thousands of new records. In recognition of this work DVLP was shortlisted for the 2017 NBN Lynne Farrell Award.

Figure 2: Dot map showing "Sorbyshire" monads with records of any species (Map generated using DMAP with thanks to Alan Morton)

I attended the ceremony on behalf of SIG, and we were delighted that DVLP was announced as the winner (Figure 3). Sorby Natural History Society and *Moors for the Future* (Peak District) were also shortlisted, so it was definitely party time!

And so to 2018. We have another year with DVLP in South Yorkshire, and we are collaborating with Sheffield Allotments Federation to record invertebrates in city allotments. Both initiatives should generate more interesting myriapod and isopod records (see article on *Leptoiulus belgicus* in this issue).

Also we are beefing up our Peak District work to record invertebrates and run workshops in the National Park. Part of this is the Iconic Peak District Invertebrates (IPDI) initiative to focus on a list of invertebrates that have special value for the Park. Green Hairstreak, Violet Oil Beetle, Lemon Slug, Lapidary Snail, Emperor Moth, Bilberry Bumblebee and Northern Wood Ant are some of the obvious ones, but also included are *Armadillidium pictum* and *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* – a bit more of a challenge, but at least we can profile these species and get people looking for them.


***Figure 3. Derek Whiteley (SIG) and Roseanna Burton (DVLP) at the 2017 NBN Awards in Cardiff.***

Reference: Richards, J.P. (1995) *Millipedes, Centipedes and Woodlice of the Sheffield area*. Sorby Record. Special Series No. 10. Sorby Natural History Society, Sheffield Museum.

*Derek Whiteley*

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