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I would first like to thank Paul Lee for all his work in editing the Newsletters in the interim period before I volunteered and took on the post and for Helen Read for asking me to become Newsletter Editor for BMIG.

In this issue there have been a few formatting changes, I hope you like the new look and if anyone has any suggestion for the Newsletter or articles please do not hesitate to contact me (see page 9 for contact details). Please do read about the Field Meeting and AGM 2019 and the Bursaries we have if you wish to join us but find it is a bit far away (2019 AGM is in Scotland).

As always there are a range of interesting articles to read and the BMIG Quiz. I hope you enjoy the latest Newsletter and I look forward to receiving more reports and articles.

Rachel Julie Clark

BMIG Bursaries for AGM and Field Meetings 2019

BMIG is keen to encourage more members to attend our annual field meetings. We are introducing BMIG Bursaries to help contribute towards the costs of travel and accommodation to join us for the unique experience of our annual field meeting. Informal, interactive and instructive, the annual field meeting offers an opportunity to find out more about millipedes, centipedes and woodlice, including identification and field craft, with the experts and other learners.

BMIG wants to encourage relative newcomers to the BMIG species, and also those that record them regularly. But, if the expense of travel and

accommodation is putting you off coming to an annual meeting, a BMIG Bursary may be for you.

For further information about BMIG Bursaries and an application form, please contact Paul Harding (pha@ceh.ac.uk). Our next annual field meeting will be in South-west Scotland on 25-27 April 2019. Why not join us?

Paul T Harding

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.

See page two for more information

BMIG AGM 2019 & Highlights from 2018

BMIG Field Weekend and AGM 2019

The committee are pleased to announce that the Residential Field Weekend and AGM have been arranged for 2019 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 *Leptoilulus belgicus*

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

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

There are two questions for the Field Weekend: an old record of the woodlouse *Armadillidium album* at Luce Bay needs to be checked; and for the centipedes, the distribution of the two species hiding under the records of "*Geophilus carpophagus* sl" that need tidying up. There are plenty of other myriapod and isopod 'goodies' in the area and there is always the possibility of discovering another species new to Britain or even a species as yet undescribed.

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.

We have block-booked some rooms in a small hotel, The Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart with TripAdvisor 4 stars rating and AA 3 stars. All the rooms are en-suite, we have negotiated a full board package (dinner, bed & breakfast and packed lunch) the prices can be found on our [bookings form](#) available to download on the BMIG website. Rooms

are limited, therefore we advise early bookings. All bookings must be received by 31st December 2018.

AGM Officer Elections

All existing officers that are 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 have a range of roles (see below) some that have never been filled. We ask that any nominations are sent to the Secretary, Helen Read beforehand (see committee contacts pg. 9) but nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM.

Officers to be elected during the AGM are:

1. Field Meeting Co-ordinator – *Although a vacant role, we currently have a member handling bookings.*
2. Projects Officer – *Another vacant role.*
3. Conservation Office – *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.*

Rachel Julie Clark

Some highlights from the BMIG field meeting in South Wales

This spring BMIG held its annual field meeting in The Valleys of South Wales. Typically, BMIG's field meetings are held in a relatively poorly recorded part of Britain. However, this year we were enticed to visit The Valleys in light of the discovery of nine millipedes new to Britain since 2014. To put this into perspective, between 1994 and 2009 just five species of millipede were discovered new to Britain from the entire British Isles. What an incentive for the 17 participants, including millipede expert

BMIG Field Weekend Visitor's Review

Thomas Wesner from Germany.

My top priority for the weekend was to find the Julid *Cylindroiulus sagittarius* in the 'wild'. Having been discovered in December 2017, I had not yet had a chance to see this species. Thus, first thing Friday morning a small group headed to Sirhowy Valley Country Park. Before I'd even put on my boots a cry of "found one" came from a happy Keith Lugg sat beside an upturned log just metres from our car. In fact, this millipede proved to be quite numerous and is clearly well established along (at least) a 6km length of the Sirhowy Valley. Others went elsewhere with equal success. Kevin Clements went in search of the Maerdy Monster *Turdulisoma cf helenreadae*, returning triumphantly with some live specimens of this handsome shiny chocolate brown millipede.

The Sorby contingency (Whiteley, Richards, *et al.*) headed for Craig yr Aber (near Bridgend). Arguably the most productive site of the weekend with no less than five of the newly discovered millipedes encountered. Two, *Ceratosphys amoena confusa* and *Hylebainosoma nontronensis*, appear to be widespread in The Valleys. The other three; *Turdulisoma cf turdulorum* and the Julids *Ommatoiulus moreleti* and *Cylindroiulus pyrenaicus* were discovered at this site in 2016. A number of unusual/unexpected centipedes, including *Lithobius piceus*, *L. pilicornis* and *L. muticus*, were also found at Craig yr Aber. What a site!

On Saturday morning we were given a tour of Cwm Colliery Tips by Liam Olds to see the Beddau Beast *Cranogona dalensi*. Thankfully, this tiny white millipede, barely 5mm long, could be readily seen against the dark background of the colliery spoil. In the afternoon we were let loose in the gardens of St Fagans National Museum of History. To prove that there is more to natural history than millipedes we encountered the Ghost Slug *Selenochlamys ysbryda*.

I'm reliably informed that this is the only species with a specific name in Welsh rather than the usual Latin or Greek. Some pallid '*Cylindroiulus*' millipedes caused some excitement in the field, but on closer examination they seem to be (female) *C. parisiorum*. A single specimen of a tiny white and blind Trichoniscid woodlouse was also collected. Unfortunately, it was also female so can't be identified and we couldn't find any more! A return visit is definitely required!

In short, we had a very successful field meeting. Finally, huge thanks to Christian Owen, Alison Jones, Liam Olds, Ben Rowson, Karen Wilkinson and Steve Williams, among others, for recommendations and permission to visit various sites.

Steve Gregory

A visitor's view of the 2018 BMIG annual meeting

Our invited guest, **Dr. Thomas Wesener**, Head of Myriapoda Section at the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum in Bonn, is a leading expert in DNA barcoding. He joined us for the entire annual BMIG meeting (22–25 March, 2018) which was hosted in a remote but busy Herefordshire pub, only a mile from the border with Wales. Most of the fieldwork was in the South Wales valleys. We were delighted to welcome Thomas and he entertained us with two fascinating evening lectures on aspects of his barcode work.

As a German researcher I have always been envious of the large and active Myriapoda scene in Britain, whereas someone working with millipedes anywhere else in the world is always a bit isolated. Collecting and studying myriapods is great fun, even more so if done in the company of skilled colleagues, a pleasure which is quite rare given the

Lumpy-bumpy millipedes in South Wales

few people interested in them. For this reason I was more than happy to accept an invitation to the BMIG meeting and field trip to South Wales, a country I had never visited before.

I was very happy to see again colleagues I had met at past CIM conferences, Tony Barber, John Lewis, Helen Read, and others; as well as all the other people, some of whom I had communicated with only via e-mail.

The South Wales valleys proved to be a millipede paradise: calcareous rocks, humid conditions, and rarely very hot summers. The present industrial wasteland had become a refuge, pretty much like the Ruhr area in western Germany where I grew up and went to university.

Even the poorest site, Blaensychan Valley, where less than a dozen myriapods could be collected by me, revealed the first sighting of the genus *Brachychaeteuma* (in my home state not recorded since the 1930s), and *Lithobius pilicornis*, thankfully determined by Tony Barber. Later genetic barcoding revealed two Chordeumatida females as *Ceratosphys amoena* and *Chordeuma proximum*, both species I have never seen before. Other species were welcome additions to our German Barcode of Life (GBOL) program. *Ophiidemsus albonanus* (where the sequencing again did not work) and specimens of *Ophiulus germanicus* (which worked) thankfully donated by Steve Gregory.

I also received some fantastic book donations by Tony Barber and John Lewis. Tony's centipede key was immediately used in my Myriapoda masters degree student class, now entirely international and English speaking. The real purposes of my visit and invitation were to give two talks: introducing our GBOL Myriapoda program, and on my research on

endemic millipedes in Madagascar. Both lectures were well-received, despite the lively atmosphere in the adjacent rooms of the pub.

Flying in to Manchester and leaving from Birmingham also provided me with the opportunity to view the beautiful countryside of the West Midlands of England from the train. Many thanks to all the drivers for shuttling me around!

I am very happy meeting the BMIG for the first time! Many thanks for the beers, and being such great hosts!

Thomas Wesner

More sites for lumpy-bumpy millipedes in South Wales

In August this year, Christian Owen and Liam Olds found additional sites for two millipedes previously known from single sites in South Wales. Firstly, they found specimens of *Typhlopsychrosoma sp.* at a site near Merthyr Tydfil (SO 04 05). This distinctive white and spiky millipede was previously recorded from a railway embankment in Newbridge (BMIG newsletter 32, pg 4). This new site, about 15 km east of Newbridge, comprises a similar habitat of disturbed ground made up of dumped ash and slag near a stream. Subsequently, Liam found two male specimens of *Turdulosoma cf turdulorum* (examined by Christian), a handsome shiny chocolate brown millipede, at a site near Cwm Afan, Port Talbot (SS 79 92). This is about 12 km north-west of the previously known site at Craig yr Aber, Bridgend (BMIG newsletter 36, pg. 2). Both sites are in former mining areas, which is in keeping with their believed status as accidental introductions.

Interestingly, it has been previously noted that the male gonopods of both species differs subtly from known described species in these genera (which

Cryptops parisi & Pauropod in Welsh Cave

occur in Spain) and both may represent species new to science. Christian comments that they intend to spend a bit more time surveying the woodlands in this area to see what else is 'lurking about'. Watch this space.

Steve Gregory

Cryptops parisi in Yorkshire

While rummaging in the garden of a friend in Sheffield (SK318842) on 20th May 2018, I encountered a large *Cryptops* centipede. Although not as large as the *C. anomalans* which have cropped up occasionally in Sheffield, this was still clearly larger than our normal *C. hortensis* specimens. Closer examination of the head and first tergite suggested *Cryptops parisi*, (short longitudinal sutures at both the base of the antennae and posterior border of the head. No cruciform suture on T1 – Barber, 2008). Later microscopic investigations showed the teeth on the 21st legs to confirm the *C. parisi* identification.



Images One and Two:

Image One - head of *Cryptops parisi* showing key features mentioned



Image Two - *Cryptops parisi* 87st leg showing the teeth mentioned in the article

Images by Paul Richards

The species was not known at all in this area. The NBN atlas suggests that the most northerly records

were from Leicester and Norfolk. This species is most commonly seen in South Wales. Only one specimen was found and it was mostly likely to have derived from a random introduction with garden plants or construction materials. As far as can be determined, there was no particular Welsh connection with the garden in which it was found. The records of *Cryptops anomalans* were found in 4 slightly more urban but equally synanthropic locations. It would seem that *Cryptops* species are readily translocated and large specimens anywhere should be carefully examined for either of these two species.

Paul Richards

A Pauropod from a Welsh Cave

Recently I received a photograph from Andy Lewington of what is clearly a pauropod from a cave in Wales, Porth yr Ogof, Breconshire (VC 42) and it may be of interest to BMIG members to see this (see image Three, page 6). Unfortunately, it is probably not possible to identify which species it is, not only because it is a photograph taken of a very small animal (pauropods are up to 1.9mm long) but also lack of taxonomic expertise, certainly on the part British myriapodologists currently.

The pauropods were first discovered about 150 years ago by Sir John Lubbock who described *Pauropus huxleyi* (see image 4, page 6). In Britain, R.S.Bagnall, in the early years of the twentieth century, looked at the group and recorded / described a number of species. However, it is important to refer to later works e.g. those of Ulf Scheller to sort out synonymy, etc in Bagnall's species.

Between 1956 and 1982 these animals were reported on by various workers including P.Remy, F.A.Turk,

House Centipedes found in Home

F.R.Moore & P.G.Oliver & A.F.Amsden. The (British) Cave Research Group currently has a list of 15 records of 7 species collected by W.Maxwell (G.Proudlove, pers.comm.).



Image Three: Photograph of pauropod from the Cave in Wales. © Andy Lewington

Ulf Scheller of Sweden reported on pauropods from arable soil in 1974 and Gordon Blower included them in his 1987 Lancashire & Cheshire myriapods paper. A British list was produced by the former in 1990 when he described a species of *Trachypauropus* (*T.britannicus*) new to science from Britain collected by Gordon Blower by Tullgren extraction in the Lake District. Subsequently Dr Scheller, Gordon and myself put together an article for the Bulletin of the British Myriapod Group Volume 8 listing species and attempting to offer a key to genera.

Pauropods (apart from the heavily sclerotised *Trachypauropus*) have a cylindrical body with 9 – 10 pairs of legs in adults. The antennae are particularly distinct being biramous. Examination requires the use of a compound microscope with the animal on a microscope slide. Dissecting microscopes are inadequate & phase contrast may well be useful. More details on our species, handling them & identification are found in the BMG Bulletin paper. The group is an interesting one with at least 23 British species (14 in the genus *Allopaupopus*) and should well repay specialist study for someone interested in these, the smallest of our myriapods.

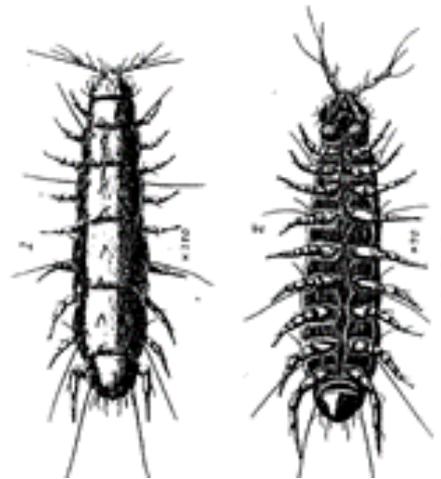


Image Four: Paurpods.

©Scheller, U. (1990)

References:

- Barber, A.D., Blower, J.G. & Scheller U. (1992) Pauropoda – the smallest myriapods. *Bulletin BMG* 7: 13-23 (see bmig.org.uk)
- Scheller, U. (1990) A list of the British Pauropoda with description of a new species of (Eurypauropodidae (Myriapoda). *J.Natural History* 24: 1179-1195

Tony Baber

House Centipedes found in Home

For many of us, certainly in our earlier years of studying myriapods, isopods and other invertebrates, the so-called House Centipede (*Scutigera coleoptrata*) seemed something of a fabulous beast, certainly in Britain, on a par with the unicorn and the mermaid. It was an animal quite unlike the centipedes we were finding and never an animal that could be looked for except, perhaps, in a location where it had already been seen although visitors to the Mediterranean region were quite likely to see it, sometimes in numbers.

The first “British” record seems to be that given by Ansted & Latham for Jersey in 1862. It was

House Centipedes found in Home

subsequently recorded from Guernsey in 1896 and seems to be well established in the two islands. It seems to have also been recorded across France, including along most of the Channel coast.



Image five: The first sighting of *Scutigera* was found in home and released © Trish O'Reilly

The first record from mainland Britain was by Gibson-Carmichael from a paper works near Aberdeen where it had, apparently, been established for more than 25 years. Subsequent Scottish records included a wine-cellar and another paper mill. It looks as though the first English records were from Norwich dated 1949 by E.A.Ellis and from Colchester reported by Gordon Blower in 1955.

Subsequently the species has been recorded across Britain from houses (bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens, toilets, etc.), from a hospital, warehouse, store-rooms, etc. In recent years quite a number of sightings have come forward from Blackpool to East Anglia, London Area/Kent to Plymouth, the Bristol area and South Wales. Whether this is because the species is becoming more common or, because of an increased interest in natural history with books &

television programmes. Maybe the opportunity for on-line communication it is being recognised/ reported more or, simply there are more opportunities for animals to spread from house to house is difficult to know. If, maybe because of climate change, it is increasing, one wonders when the first "outdoor" specimens will be reported e.g. from the south coast.

The two pictures shown were sent to me by Trish O'Reilly who, as a member of a Facebook group, had been advised to make contact & she has kindly given me permission to use them. They were taken in her house at Higham on the Hill, a village near Nuneaton (V55) this June. The first occurrence was in her hallway & is pictured in a drinking glass. This was caught & released outdoors. The second picture, taken about a week later, shows an animal on the wall of her living room. As far as we know, these animals are completely harmless and might, indeed, help to keep household "bugs" under



Image Five: The second sighting of *Scutigera* was found in home and released © Trish O'Reilly

control.

Hypogean Pitfall Traps & BMIG Quiz

Subterranean sampling with hypogean pitfall traps

Species in the BMIG groups are normally found in close association with the soil. OK, some species climb trees or enter buildings, but woodlice, millipedes and centipedes are essentially 'soil fauna'. Hand searching and sorting, sieving and heat extraction are familiar techniques for finding them and pitfall trapping is fairly effective for some surface-active species. None of these techniques are particularly effective at sampling species that are active within the soil.

A recent series of papers and notes in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* have described the technique of sampling soil fauna with hypogean pitfall traps – i.e. traps buried *within* the soil. The technique is not without its difficulties, as described in a recent paper (Sims & Cole, 2018). In this they propose improvements to the design and use of hypogean pitfall traps, and give a brief illustrated review of the technique drawing on recent studies in several continental European countries.

Sims, I. & Cole, J. 2018. Modifications to the design and deployment of a hypogean pitfall trap to improve sampling efficiency. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*, 31, 149-153.

Paul T. Harding

BMIG Quiz

BMIG Quiz 4 - Results

Round BMIG Quiz 4 was, once again, no real challenge for Dave Bilton.

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.

The area was North Devon, specifically the area around Lynton and Lynmouth. The inaugural centipede is *Eurygeophilus pinguis*, discovered on the first ever BMG meeting, at Brendon, in 1970. A disastrous flood struck Lymouth on 5-16 August 1952. A funicular cliff railway links Lynmouth to Lynton. Feral goats occur at the Valley of the Rocks, just west of Lynton. 'Queen Mab: A Philosophical Poem' was sent by Shelley to Thomas Hookham, from Lynmouth, on August 18th 1812.

Tony Barber was also quick to point out that *Chalandea pinguis*, as *E. pinguis* was then known, was found first at Woody Bay to the west of Linton/Lynmouth.

Round BMIG Quiz 5

Find and explain the links between a BMIG species and other information, including some localities. Getting started on this should be easy for those of you that have read recent BMIG publications. Please remember to solve all elements of the puzzle.

Why should BMIG be grateful to "spinicornis" for the discovery of a "similar" species as British? What general geographical links are there to a rebellious Earl of Essex and to the Duke of Norfolk? What are the possibly links to the most lucrative song in world?

- * What is the species and why is it "similar"?
- * Who or what is "spinicornis"?
- * What are the geographical links and why?
- * Identify the song and suggest possible links.

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

Paul T. Harding

More on *Philoscia affinis* & Committee Contacts

More on *Philoscia affinis*

Despite my encouragement to look out for *Philoscia affinis* (BMIG newsletter 35, pg. 4) very few observations of 'pale-headed' *Philoscia* have been reported. However, this cryptic woodlouse has now been confirmed from male specimens from England (Sussex and Devon), Scotland (near Oban) and now Wales (near Risca). The latter found by Christian Owen who found male specimens this autumn in Alder *Alnus glutinosus* Carr. To Christian's credit it took several trips back to the same site before he finally found adult males to confirm the identification. Elsewhere, most reports have turned out to be of female specimens or 'habitus' photos. Paul Richards sent some very convincing images of females collected under stones of an old wall by a stream in damp ancient woodland in the 'Sheffield' area. Other 'possible' sightings include North Wales,

North-West England and Essex.

Ideally identification should be based on male specimens, which have a prominent 'tooth' on the 7th leg. On current evidence *P. affinis* would appear to be widely distributed across Britain, but rather thin on the ground. As Paul R comments "I'm checking everywhere I go and they've all been *muscorum* so far". Pretty much my experience too! As to whether it is an overlooked native, or an introduction, remains an unanswered question. More data required! *P. affinis* is thought to have been long present, but overlooked in Northern France, Belgium and Germany, where woodlouse recorders have been more active in recent years. This may also be true in the UK. Please look out for 'pale-headed' *Philoscia* during your travels. These could be the elusive *P. affinis*.

Steve Gregory

Committee contacts

www.bmig.org.uk

twitter.com/britishmigroup

facebook.com/BritishMyriapodandIsopodGroup/

instagram.com/britishmigroup/

For information and membership please contact:

Helen Read, helen@helen-read.co.uk (or see Hon. Secretary for address)

Hon. Treasurer:

Paul Harding, 60 Boxworth Road, Cambridge CB23 4JQ. 01954 267218
pha@ceh.ac.uk

Centipede Recorder:

Tony Barber, 7 Greenfield Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0UG.
abarber159@btinternet.com

For Sales please contact:

Paul Harding, pha@ceh.ac.uk (or see Hon. Treasurer for address)

Hon. Secretary:

Helen Read, 2 Egypt Wood Cottages, Egypt Lane, SL2 3LE
helen@helen-read.co.uk

Millipede Recorder:

Paul Lee, Little Orchard, Capel Rd, Bentley, Ipswich, IP9 2DW
arachne2222@aol.com

Chairperson:

Paul Lee, Little Orchard, Capel Rd, Bentley, Ipswich, IP9 2DW
arachne2222@aol.com

Bulletin Editor:

Helen Read, 2 Egypt Wood Cottages, Egypt Lane, SL2 3LE
helen@helen-read.co.uk

Non-marine Isopod Recorder:

Steve Gregory, Earth Trust, Abingdon, OX14 4QZ.
stevegregory@btopenworld.com

Vice Chairperson:

Duncan Sivell, NHM, Life Sciences, Cromwell Rd, London, SW7 5BD.
d.sivell@nhm.ac.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Rachel Clark, NHM, Core Research Laboratories, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD
rachel.clark@nhm.ac.uk

Biological Records Centre:

CEH Wallingford, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BB Tel: 01491 692424 Fax: 01491 692564
brc@ceh.ac.uk

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