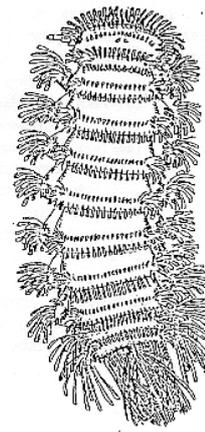




British Myriapod and Isopod Group



Autumn 2011

Newsletter number 23

Editor: Paul Lee

BMIG business

AGM notice

All BMIG members are invited to attend the AGM to be held at 8pm on Friday, 13th April 2011. The venue will be Northern College, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Barnsley.

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.

The April meeting in Kent was hugely successful in meeting its aims of systematically surveying for the millipedes *Polyzonium germanicum* and *Metaiulus pratensis*. *P. germanicum* was found at 17 sites in 16 different 10km squares and *M. pratensis* was found at one site in the Medway valley, the first sighting of this elusive animal since 1988. In addition a new species of woodlouse to the county is reported below. A taxonomic project involving the third BAP millipede, *Trachysphaera lobata*, is coming to a conclusion and a report will be produced later in the year but a wonderful scanning electron micrograph of a specimen by Thomas Wesener can be viewed on the home page of the Hymettus website www.hymettus.org.uk.

Paul Lee, 33 Lawford Place, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex CO11 2PT

2012 BMIG AGM and Field Weekend

The 2012 meeting will be held from Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th April 2012 and will be based in the magnificent surroundings of Wentworth Castle, Stainborough. The venue is worth the trip alone, but the high moors, woodlands etc are very nice too. I will try to get permission from the other Wentworth to have a look around the grounds and garden centre at least. If anyone is feeling adventurous there is an entire 10km square with no woodlouse records up on the moors. *Leptoiulus belgicus* is in the grounds of Wentworth Castle and the area may also harbour *Armadillidium pictum* somewhere as yet unknown. There isn't a single record of any *Trichoniscoides* species for miles around which someone may be able to rectify. *Lithobius borealis* (as most other centipedes) is very under recorded but can be found in

the area and I hope *Craspedosoma* might turn up somewhere beyond my single Sheffield site.

Paul Richards, Museums Sheffield, Weston Park, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TP
paul.richards@museums-sheffield.org.uk

CENTIPEDE RECORDS

Almost all of the centipede records submitted by individuals, from field meetings and from local record centres have now been sent to the Biological Records Centre, Wallingford towards the eventual production of an atlas for Britain & Ireland. However, inevitably there will still be a few records going in over the next few months and probably even after the first draft maps are produced so please continue to send new centipede records in to me (as cards or electronically) and I will submit them to BRC in electronic format.

Tony Barber, Rathgar, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0BD

Myriapod and Isopod course

The Field Studies Council are organising a course on Identifying Centipedes, Millipedes and Woodlice 24-27th February 2012 led by Paul Lee. For further details of the course and to make a booking contact Carole Vickers at Flatford Mill tel:0845 3307368 email: enquiries.fm@field-studies-council.org

CENTIPEDE & MILLIPEDE REPORTS FROM BMG/BMIG MEETINGS

Most of the meetings of the then British Myriapod Group and the now British Myriapod and Isopod Group had reports on centipede and millipede species found with at least a 10km NG square occurrence. The first two meetings were reported in the first Bulletin (1972). Then, from the inception of the BMG Newsletter under Doug Richardson, they appeared in that publication before transferring to the BMG Bulletin (now the BMIG Bulletin). There were, however, a few gaps in the record.

The following is a list of meeting dates and locations and the date and place of publication of species lists for centipedes (C) and millipedes (M) and, for more recent meetings, woodlice (W). A = autumn meeting.

Tony Barber, Rathgar, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0BD

Year of Meeting	Location	Results listed	Date of List	Notes
1970	Brendon, N.Devon	Bulletin BMG 1	1972	C , M
1971	Kington, Herefords.	Bulletin BMG 1	1972	C , M
1982	Plymouth	BMG Newsl.1	1983	C , M
1983	Lancaster	BMG Newsl.2	1983	List only
1984	Brancaster, Norfolk	BMG Newsl.3	1984	C , M
1985	Bangor, N.Wales	BMG Newsl.4	1985	C , M
1986	Manchester	BMG Newsl.6	1986	C , M
1987	Langford, Mendip	BMG Newsl.7	1987	C , M
1988	Newbridge on Wye	BMG Newsl.9	1988	C , M
1989	Hallsannery Devon	BMG Newsl. 11	1989	C , M
1990	Suffolk	BMG Newsl. 13	1990	C , M
1991	Swanage, Dorset	BMG Newsl. 15	1991	C , M
1992	Forest of Dean	BMG Newsl. 17	1992	C , M
1993	Sussex	BMG Newsl. 19	1993	C , M
1994	Meigle, Perthshire	BMG Newsl. 21	1994	C , M
1995	Cumbria	BMG Newsl. 23	1995	M only
1996	Kingcombe Dorset	BMG Newsl. 25	1996	C , M
1997	Dalry, Galloway	BMG Newsl. 31	1999	M only
1998	West Cornwall	BMG Newsl. 30	1998	C , M
1999	Ford, Northumb-erland	Bulletin BMIG 17	2001	C

	Ford, Northumb-erland	Bulletin BMIG 21	2006	M
	Ford, Northumb-erland	Bulletin BMIG 23	2008	M correct ions
2000	Saffron Walden	Bulletin BMIG 17	2001	C , M, W
2001	Ireland (A)	Bulletin BMIG 18	2002	C , M, W
2002	Youlgreave Derbys.	Bulletin BMIG 20	2004	C , M, W
2003	Manchester	Bulletin BMIG 21	2006	C , M, W
2004	Green Park, Bucks.	Bulletin BMIG 21	2006	C , M, W
2005	Durham	Bulletin BMIG 21	2006	C , M, W
2006	Ayr	Bulletin BMIG 22	2007	C, M, W
2007	Ludlow	Bulletin BMIG 23	2008	C
	Ludlow	Bulletin BMIG 24	2010	M, W
2007	Oban (A)	Bulletin BMIG 23	2008	C, M, W
	Oban (A)	Bulletin BMIG 24	2010	Additi onal M
2008	Swansea	<i>in prep.</i>		
2008	Wisley (A)	Bulletin BMIG 24	2010	C, M, W
2009	Ladock, Cornwall	Bulletin BMIG 24	2010	C, M, W
2010	Hawarden, N.Wales	<i>in prep.</i>		
2010	Kintyre (A)	<i>in prep.</i>		
2011	Canterbury, Kent	<i>in prep.</i>		
2011	Glen Morriston (A)	<i>in prep.</i>		

Deadline for Bulletin papers and notes

Bulletin 25 is due for publication at any moment but the editors are already working on volume 26 and want to remind potential authors that the deadline for submission of notes and papers is 1st February 2012.

A correction to Barber's AIDGAP |Key to the identification of British centipedes

The entry for *Schendyla nemorensis* in the Tabular Key to British Geophilomorpha on p.28 suggests that this animal possesses a carpophagus structure on the anterior segments and a claw on the terminal segment of each of the last pair of legs. This is incorrect on both counts and the correct entry is shown in Table 3 Tabular key to species of British Geophilomorpha on p.58 of Barber's Linnean Society Synopsis No.58 *Centipedes*. The species description on pp.41-42 and the dichotomous key allow for correct identification of specimens using the AIDGAP key.

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Some minor corrections to Barber's Linnean Society Synopsis No.58 *Centipedes*

On p.157, Fig 183 (*L. curtipes*), the bottom of the page reads, "(After Eason, 1964, as *L. lapidicola*)" but I am guessing that it should say simply, "(After Eason, 1964)." Similarly on p.151, Fig 180, the bottom of the page simply reads, "(After Eason, 1964)" but I am guessing that this is the figure that should read, "(After Eason, 1964, as *L. lapidicola*)". On this basis p.165, Fig 187 should read at the bottom "(After Eason, 1964, as *L. aulacopus*)", but probably I am being pedantic now! I have not checked every page (and I did say it was minor)!

Steve Gregory, Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4QZ

Update on OPAL grants

This time last year (BMIG News 21) I reported that BMIG had been awarded an OPAL grant for a project called, "Myriapod & Woodlouse identification skills sharing" to fund the publication of three ebooks available on a CD (or as downloadable files). The ebooks have been written now and are with the publishers (Nature Bureau). I expect there to be a couple of proof reading phases, but they are on course for completion in October.

Meanwhile BMIG has won a second OPAL grant to extend the work started by the 'ebooks' project by enabling microscopic details to be viewed during training courses and by allowing photographs to be taken of microscopic details for use in publications and posters in the future. This grant will pay for equipment to give added value to training sessions, both giving inexperienced participants the opportunity to view the appearance of live animals and more experienced participants to watch more advanced techniques being demonstrated. A laptop computer and projector will allow presentations to be given at a variety of events, showing the ebooks either as a standalone talk or together with live animals. The addition of a camera facility to take good quality photographs will allow additional material to be prepared to supplement keys already in production and to produce a new series of documents encouraging the use of microscopic details. The equipment has largely been

purchased, but I am still weighing up options for carrying cases. I am trying to pack items as ready for use as possible, but this means having quite a large case. I will no doubt compromise somewhere. We have a trinocular microscope with camera adaptors, a canon 600D camera, a digital projector, laptop and all connecting cables, mains adaptors and remote releases. The equipment has been used for two day schools so far, where it proved very useful for showing microscopic features to the whole group. It was also useful for showing live behaviour (after some chasing around). It takes reasonable still images, but I haven't used this facility enough to perfect it. The Dipterists' Forum has a similar set up and like me, found that the live view is more effective than the still photography facility. However, the camera has produced some stunning images with my 65mm macro lens. The system is available to borrow by any BMIG member running a course and should be 'roadworthy' by October (or sooner in smaller packages). I am also trying to compile a user guide.

Paul Richards, Museums Sheffield, Weston Park, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TP

Atlas of European Millipedes (Class Diplopoda), Vol. 1 Orders Polyxenida, Glomerida, Platydesmida, Siphonocryptida, Polyxonidae, Callipodida, Polydesmida.

Des Kime and Henrik Enghoff have produced this first volume of three covering 492 species. The book is available from Pensoft at 80€ plus p&p but a bulk order from BMIG members will reduce the cost to 60€ plus 13€ p&p for EU addresses. I am willing to coordinate a bulk order but I do not have a Euro bank account. If you wish to avail yourself of this offer you will need to send me your name and address along with 73€ in cash or a sterling cheque for £67.50. Orders should be with me by 30 November 2011.

Paul Lee, 33 Lawford Place, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex CO11 2PT

Metatrichoniscoides leydigii in Kent – a native population?

The small pallid trichoniscid woodlouse *Metatrichoniscoides leydigii* (Webber, 1880) was first recorded in Britain in 1989 from among compost-rich gravel and rubble at a garden centre in Oxford (Gregory, 2009). It was almost certainly unintentionally introduced to this site (e.g. via plant material) and its occurrence here was, quite correctly, considered to be of no conservation significance. Recently, it was included on the Non-native Species Register, which comprises species introduced into Britain, which may in the long-term prove to be invasive.

M. leydigii was first described from the coast of the Zuider-sea in the Netherlands in 1880 and through the recent activities of the Dutch 'soilfaunagroup' it has become clear that it is quite widespread and frequent in the Netherlands (Berg *et al*, 2008). It lives deep within clayey soil or beneath embedded rocks along roadsides, riverbanks, ditches, sea dykes and occasionally associated with the supralittoral zone on the coast. It is commonly associated with *Trichoniscoides* sp. and *Haplophthalmus mengii*. As a native species it is also known from the coasts of Belgium, Germany and western France. During the 2011 BMIG spring field-meeting to Kent a visit was made to the tidal part of the

River Medway, near Snodland (TQ/71-61-, 17/iv/2011). A single male *M. leydigii* was collected by the author from the underside of a piece of concrete embedded into peaty soil on the edge of a reedbed bordering the River Medway. A single specimen of *Trichoniscoides albidus* was also present. It is of note that two specimens *Trichoniscoides sarsi* were also collected nearby from beneath stones below strandline debris on the banks of the Medway (a frequent associate of *M. leydigii* in the Netherlands; Berg *et al*, 2008). Both *M. leydigii* and *T. sarsi* are known to be heavily synanthropic in Britain (Gregory, 2009). However, this newly discovered Medway site is strikingly similar to the native habitat described for both species in the Netherlands just across the North Sea (Berg *et al*, 2008). It is plausible that the Medway site supports a native population of both species, rather than a recent human-aided introduction. If this is the case then these Medway populations are likely to be of considerable conservation interest. It is worth looking for *M. leydigii* at other low-lying areas along the eastern coasts of Kent and East Anglia.

I am grateful to Paul Lee for organising access to the site, and Martine Jonker for translating the relevant species accounts in the Dutch Atlas (Berg *et al*, 2008). More information about the Dutch woodlouse fauna (in Dutch, but with good images) can be found at: <http://www.pissebeddenproject.nl/soorten.html>.

References:

- Berg, M.P., Soesbergen, M., Tempelman, D. & Wijnhoven, H. (2008). *Verspreidingsatlas Nederlandse landpissebedden, duizendpoten en miljoenpoten*. EIS-Nederland, Leiden.
- Gregory, S. (2009) *Woodlice and Waterlice (Isopoda: Oniscidea & Asellota) in Britain and Ireland*. Shrewsbury: FSC Publications.
- Steve Gregory, Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4QZ

Isopod Newsletter

All back issues of the Isopod Newsletter, dating from October 1985, are now available on line at the Smithsonian's isopod website:

<http://www.invertebrates.si.edu/isopod/isonewsletter.htm>

There is also a link to them via this address:

<http://www.invertebrates.si.edu/isopod/isolinks.htm>

The current and more recent newsletters (from December 2003 on) are available from the Crustacean society website:

http://www.vims.edu/tcs/isopod_newsletter.htm

or from the TCS website, follow the links "Crustacean Resources" and "Newsletters with Crustacea content." New issues will continue to be uploaded to this site in the future. The editors of the Isopod Newsletter are now Dr. Giuseppe Montesanto, Università di Catania, Italy and Dr. Didier Bouchon from the Université de Poitiers, France. If you have new isopod-related articles for the newsletter and especially new publications, please send them to Dr. Montesanto at g.montesanto@unict.it or to Dr. Bouchon, didier.bouchon@univ.poitiers.fr

Likewise, if you wish to subscribe to the newsletter, sent only electronically these days, contact Dr. Montesanto.

Jeekel's Nomenclators

The invaluable Nomenclators of Jeekel are still available from their original publishers. The Diplopoda volume is available from Nederlandse Entomologische Vereniging, Plantage Middenlaan 64, NL-1018 DH Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Payment is required with the order. The cost including postage to the UK, bank charges and taxes was 52.38€. You can email NEV-admin-science@uva.nl to confirm costs before ordering. The Chilopoda volume is available from Godard D.M. Tweehuysen (g.d.m.tweehuysen@uva.nl). It is available as a printed version (25€) but he can also supply as a pdf for free (at least he sent me one for free).

Graham Proudlove, Department of Entomology, The Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK.

Dr Carol C Prunescu

Sadly our Romanian colleague Dr. Prunescu passed away on 23 September 2011. An eminent researcher, he was the director of the Institute of Biology, Romanian Academy from 1990 to 1995. In the early 60s, he entered in the world of myriapodology devoting a part of his work to the anatomy and histology of centipedes. Although he also described several new species, his outstanding papers on the genital system and phylogeny of centipedes, are among the best known. He was one of the founding members of the CIM, being present at the first International Congress of Myriapodology in Paris (France), 8-13th April 1968.

Mihaela Ion, Institute of Biology Bucharest, Centre of Ecology, Taxonomy and Nature Conservation, Splaiul Independentei nr.296, 060031, Bucharest

NEXT NEWSLETTER: Spring 2012

Please send your contributions to reach the editor by
28 February 2012

Supplies of record cards and additional copies of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group Newsletter can be obtained from the Biological Records Centre.

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