British Myriapod and Isopod Group

Newsletter

No 42 Spring 2021

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BMIG news

AGM—the 2021 AGM will be held by Zoom on Saturday 10th April at 2pm. All welcome to attend. The agenda, minutes of last AGM and reports are on the website here.

Field meeting spring 2021—Due to the ongoing COVID situation we are not holding a field meeting this spring. Instead we are holding a virtual Annual Meeting after the AGM with a series of talks.

See below for details of how to register for the AGM and BMIG Annual Meeting.

BMIG Annual Meeting

In place of our usual spring field meeting, we're holding a virtual Annual Meeting right after the BMIG AGM on Saturday 10th April, starting around 2.50pm. There will be four talks, each lasting around 30 mins (including questions), with a short break after the second talk:

- Anthony Barber: *Centipedes on the Beach: Geophilomorphs & the littoral habit*
- Warren Maguire : *A new BMIG Intertidal Isopod Recording Scheme*
- Steve Gregory: *New British isopod and myriapod records*
- Willson Gaul: *The spatial distribution of millipede records in Ireland and implications for species distribution modelling*

To register for the AGM and for the talks, visit: *https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bmig-annual-meeting-tickets-144763103339*

Centipedes on the sea shore

Having, at various times, attended a Bioblitz in a coastal location, it always seems to attract interest amongst other participants that one might be looking for centipedes on the sea shore. After all, as everyone knows, centipedes are terrestrial animals even though sometimes found above the strand line and in the splash zone. In fact, there are five species of geophilomorph, from three

Strigamia maritima (Tony Barber)

different families which, in NW Europe, appear to be exclusively halophilic and there are, maybe, as many as forty such species on coastlines around the world. In addition to these, *Pachymerium ferrugineum*, a quite large and distinctive species, is by no means confined to the seashore in a number of countries but has only been found here very rarely and has been associated with beaches in south & east England and the Channel Islands.

By far the most frequently found of our littoral species is *Strigamia maritima*, a red-coloured animal recorded on shores, frequently in large numbers, from Shetland to the Channel Islands. Looking a bit like reddish polychaete worms, they rapidly disappear into their surroundings, especially if on shingle. Turning over a stone in the right place may reveal not just one or two but sometimes dozens of these animals and because of this and the possibility of harvesting eggs/juvenile stages, has been readily available for population, developmental and genetic studies. When examined closely, the very large and obvious tooth at the base of the poison claw, characteristic of our *Strigamia* species can be seen.

There is a second reddish species, recorded far less often than *S. maritima*, *Hydroschendyla submarina* which, amongst other microsites, occurs in the crevices of slaty rocks; indeed one early account suggests the use of a crowbar to help find it. It tends to be found relatively low on the shore with records from various parts of the English coast, South Wales and the Channel Islands. The last legs are very swollen in both sexes whereas in *S. maritima* this is characteristic of males, there is no basal tooth to the poison claws and the coxal pores of the last legs are only two on each side.

The remaining species are pale or yellowish. *Schendyla peyerimhoffi*, which is found in crevices and other sites, resembles *Schendyla nemorensis* and it can sometime seem difficult to distinguish the two. Reference to differences in the inner edge of the poison claw and to the relative proportions of the articles of the last legs is needed. There are records from the coasts of England, Wales, Isle of Man, Channel Isles and Ireland.

Geophilus seurati (*Geophilus gracilis*) somewhat resembles *Geophilus flavus* but does show carpophagus structures on its sternites. It is rather similar to the terrestrial *Geophilus osquidatum* and

BRITISH / IRISH LITTORAL CENTIPEDES

SPECIES	Has been called	FAMILY	SIZE mm	LEG PAIRS	COLOUR
Hydroschendyla submarina		SCHENDYLIDAE	40	45-53	Reddish Brown
Schendyla peyerimhoffi		SCHENDYLIDAE	18	39-49	Colourless to Pale Yellow Slightly darker anteriorly
Strigamia maritima		LINOTAENIIDAE	40	47-51	Red
Geophilus seurati	*G.gracilis G.fucorum seurati*	GEOPHILIDAE	30	51-57	Yellowish, Head darker
Geophilus pusillifrater		GEOPHILIDAE	13	41-43	Pale, Head a little darker
Pachymerium ferrugineum		GEOPHILIDAE	50	43-45 57*	Reddish-yellow, Anterior region darker

* "Long Form" (Guernsey)

reference to the arrangement of the "scallops" along the inner edge of the poison claw is required. Often found on salt-marshes, etc. it has been recorded from England, Wales, Scotland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Ireland.

Geophilus pusillifrater, a rather small species (13mm) and lacking carpophagus structures, is rarely found but has been recorded from shingle, crevices, etc. from England, Ireland and the Channel Islands.

The so-called "short form" of *Pachymerium ferrugineum* with 43-45 or so leg-pairs has been recorded a few times from the east and south coasts of England. It is widespread in mainland Europe and also, apparently, quite tolerant of sea water so British examples may be mostly chance vagrants that may establish the species for a shorter or longer time here having arrived from coastal sites elsewhere. Examples of the "long form" with 57 leg-pairs have recently been found in Guernsey. It is a quite large (50mm), distinctive reddish-yellow animal with a darker anterior region and characteristic coxae to the last legs.

Other geophilomorphs can also occur on the upper reaches of shores as vagrants including *Geophilus flavus* and *Stigmatogaster subterranea*.

Tony Barber

New Recording Scheme—'Woodlouse Flies' Rhinophoridae

The Rhinophoridae recording scheme has recently been set up, covering all 8 species currently known in Great Britain and Ireland. As the common name 'Woodlouse Flies' suggests their biology is strongly linked to the terrestrial woodlice fauna, the larval stage of Rhinophoridae being internal parasitoids of woodlice. The Adults can be found May-October in the field, when they oviposit their eggs on Woodlice uropod secretions. The 1st instar larvae then enter through the sternal intersegmental membrane of freshly moulted hosts. The larvae feed on the hemolymph and organs eventually leading to the death of the host. The larvae develop and pupate inside the host, eventually emerging after pupation (Wood et al, 2018).

The recording scheme would be very grateful for any records or observations of behaviour, larval or adult Rhinophoridae in Britain and Ireland. The most recent arrival, *Stevenia deceptoria*, is a fairly common species now particularly on the south coast where its range is expanding. The host is currently unknown so there are some exciting discoveries to be made. Anybody who rears wild collected woodlice would be likely to encounter the adults, particularly the larger species. Host information included with the rhinophoridae species record is very valuable and would greatly benefit our knowledge of these fascinating flies.

Tricogena rubicosa Male (Ryan Mitchell)

They can be found in a wide range of habitats just like their woodlice hosts. Chalk grassland, brownfield sites and costal habitats are some of the

habitats where Rhinophoridae biodiversity seems to be highest. Identification resources of adults and larvae are included in the resources section at the bottom of this article.

Paykullia maculata Female (Steven Falk)

If you do come across these marvellous flies in the field or from collected specimens please enter any sightings on iRecord or alternatively email me directly at ryanmitchell1994@live.com. I am also happy to receive specimens through the post for identification; please email me if you wish to send specimens.

Resources

- BRITISH BLOWFLIES (CALLIPHORIDAE) AND WOODLOUSE FLIES (RHINOPHORIDAE)
- http://www.stevenfalk.co.uk/files/21577/testkeytobritishblowflies132016.pdf
- Rhinophoridae recording scheme Dipteristforum page : https://www.dipterists.org.uk/rhinophoridae-scheme/home
- Steven Falk's Flickr Site Collection: Rhinophoridae (woodlouse flies) (flickr.com)
- Eggs and larvae of most British species can be identified using Bedding (1973) *Transactions of the RES* 125: 27-44

Wood, Camila Timm & Nihei, Silvio & Araujo, Paula. (2018). Woodlice and their parasitoid flies: Revision of Isopoda (Crustacea, Oniscidea) - Rhinophoridae (Insecta, Diptera) interaction and first record of a parasitized Neotropical woodlouse species. *ZooKeys*. 801. 10.3897/zookeys.801.26052.

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Millipede-killing flies in Britain

There are two species of "millipede-killing fly" (Phaeomyiinae) in Britain; *Pelidnoptera fuscipennis*, which is widespread but more common in England and Wales, and *Pelidnoptera nigripennis*, a scarcer species most often found in the Highlands but with some scattered records across Britain. It is thought both these flies parasitise *Ommatoiulus sabulosus*, although it seems this has never actually been observed either in Britain or abroad.

The Phaeomyiinae is a small group of just five Palaearctic species that sit within the family of "snail-killing flies" (Sciomyzidae). It was not until 1989 that phaeomyiines were discovered to be millipede parasitoids. Scientists searching for natural enemies of *Ommatoiulus moreleti* in Portugal discovered that *Pelidnoptera nigripennis* was a common parasite of this millipede. Although this discovery was specific to *P. nigripennis*, it implies that all phaeomyiines are millipede-killers. In laboratory trials *P. nigripennis* laid eggs on a number of larger polydesmid and julid millipedes but only *Ommatoiulus* species (*O. diplurus*, *O. oliveriae* and *O. moreleti*) were successfully parasitised. *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* does not occur in Portugal but as it's the most common *Ommatoiulus* across most of Europe it is presumed to be the host of *Pelidnoptera* east of the Pyrenees.

In Portugal *P. nigripennis* adults are typically found in scrubby habitats in early spring. The larvae develop inside their *Ommatoiulus* host through the summer, and when the millipede eventually dies in the autumn the larva pupates inside the shell of the millipede and overwinters in this form. In Britain *P. nigripennis* is active through May and June and the adults are normally found in damp woodland habitats. *P. fuscipennis* has a slightly longer and later flight season from the end of May until mid-August and is found in similar habitats, typically beside streams or ponds in deciduous woodland. Both species of fly are orange-brown, between 5 and 10 mm long and have very dark wings, which almost look like black vinyl in live specimens. The wing colour is a useful character as although many British flies have patterned wings, not many have uniformly dark wings.

The surest way to confirm whether *Pelidnoptera* flies are parasitising *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* is to look for puparia in the bodies of dead millipedes. The puparium of *P. nigripennis* is reddish-black to brownish-black, subcylindrical, and approximately 7.5 mm long and 1.8 mm wide. Insect puparia are quite easy to rear through; place them in a humid container (e.g. on a piece of damp but not wet tissue), use some netting or mesh as a lid and wait for the insect to emerge, which could be a matter of days or a matter of weeks. If brought indoors the insect will almost certainly emerge earlier due to the warmer environment. After emerging adult flies may take a few hours to expand their wings and develop their final body colour. It's important to let this process play out before preserving any flies as voucher specimens.

If you come across any dead *O. sabulosus* in the winter or early spring it is worth taking a look inside them. Bearing in mind we don't know much about the ecology of millipede-killing flies the carcasses of other large julids are worth investigating as well. It does appear that size matters, the millipede needs to be at least 2 mm wide to accommodate *Pelidnoptera* larvae. The recent discovery of *O. moreleti* in South Wales is intriguing as this lies more within the range of *P. fuscipennis*. Strictly speaking the ecology of *P. fuscipennis* remains "unknown", if this fly could be reared from a millipede it would be a first.

A species of "scuttle fly" (Phoridae) that occurs in Britain was also found to parasitise *Ommatoiulus* in the Portuguese studies. *Megaselia elongata* is approximately 2-3 mm long, much smaller than *Pelidnoptera*, and is thought to be an occasional rather than obligate parasitoid of millipedes. Scuttle flies have a varied and sometimes odd biology; they include the coffin fly and ant-decapitating flies, some phorids can live inside the human lung while others can survive on shoe polish. The *Myriaphora* actually specialise in parasitising millipedes but this genus is largely South American. In Britain there are more than 350 types of scuttle fly and more than 250 species in the genus *Megaselia* alone. Often referred to as "horrid phorids" by Dipterists this is a tricky family to study. The presence of *M. elongata* in Britain suggests that *Pelidnoptera* may not be the only flies parasitising millipedes. Any puparia, large or small, found inside millipede carcasses are certainly worth collecting and rearing through.

Duncan Sivell

A millipede, or two, new to Britain

This September I had the privilege to survey at Lamorran House Gardens, St. Mawes, Cornwall (SW843331), which lies on a south facing slope several acres in extent and is surrounded by the sea on three sides. Apparently they have not had a major frost since 1987 and successfully cultivate sub-tropical plants, including many from the southern

hemisphere. Being early autumn, the ground was rather dry and surveying rather hard work, but the millipedes didn't disappoint. *Haplopodoiulus spathifer* proved to be the most frequently encountered millipede, with a few *Cylindroiulus vulnerarius*, *C. truncorum* and *Leptoiulus belgicus*.

Midway down the garden 'odd' millipedes were found clustered under rotting logs. A quick look with a hand lens revealed the distinctive 'beaked' head of the order Polyzoniida. In Britain this order is represented by just two species, *Polyzonium germanicum* (found in woodland in Kent) and *Rhinotus purpureus* (known from a few tropical glasshouses).

Polyzoniid millipede from Lamorran House Gardens (Steve Gregory)

This was neither. Fortunately, Thomas Wesener and Leif Moritz at the Leibniz Institute for Animal Biodiversity, Germany expressed an interest and specimens were forwarded to them, including a male. Despite being DNA 'bar-coded' and imaged with a scanning electron microscope (SEM), the only definite conclusion is that it is not a species native to Europe. Morphologically, it fits the southern hemisphere family Siphonotidae (which includes *R. purpureus*), but COVID restrictions have hampered this international detective work (with many museum collections proving inaccessible).

Towards the top of the gardens several specimens of a small fast-moving darkly-pigmented polydesmid were collected from among deep accumulations of damp leaf litter. Alas, the specimens were immature, but included two sub-adult males just 8 mm in length with distinct, but undeveloped, 'gonopod buds'. These were sent to Roy Anderson who tentatively identified them as *Polydesmus asthenestatus* (a species recently found as a naturalised introduction at a few sites in Northern Ireland, including Roy's own garden). Subject to confirmation, this would be the first record for Britain. However, mature males are only found in the winter months and due to COVID restrictions a return visit didn't happen.

It seems Helen Read may have seen examples of this species too. I quote "In December 2020 I [Helen] received some small polydesmids from Lee Knight (via Tony Barber) collected from Kitley Cavern, a limestone cave not far from Plymouth, in Devon. There were several females and just one male, but examination [by Helen] showed them to be very like *P. asthenestatus*. I [Helen] took some photographs which were sent to Roy Anderson who felt that they were very likely to be this species. Lee reports that 'there were tons of them throughout the cave'." So, if confirmed, there could be at least two British sites.

I am very grateful to the owners of Lamorran House Gardens for allowing unrestricted access to their gardens. One day I hope to return to tidy up the loose ends!

Steve Gregory (with additional text from Helen Read)

Metatrichoniscoides celticus in England...

This October (2020) Frank Ashwood found some tiny (< 2mm) unpigmented blind trichoniscid woodlice within the topsoil on an allotment in Horfield, Bristol (ST6076). His image posted to BMIG's Isopods and Myriapods of Britain and Ireland group immediately drew my attention –

Metatrichoniscoides, surely! Frank forwarded some specimens to me, which I suspected would prove be *M. leydigii*, a species known to inhabit synanthropic habitats. However, upon dissection of a male specimen it was clearly *M. celticus*. Originally known from just a handful of mainly coastal sites in south Wales, *M. celticus* was found in coastal grassland in north Wales by Tom Hughes in 2019 (BMIG Newsletter 38, pg.7) hinting at a wider distribution. This is the first record for England, some 60 km further west of its strong-hold in south Wales, on the opposite side of the Bristol Channel. It is also of note that Frank collected a number of 'red-eyed' *Trichoniscoides sarsi* specimens from the same allotment; another apparently rare and elusive soil-dwelling species, which nicely leads to my next note...

... and coastal *Trichoniscoides sarsi*

Following his discovery of *Metatrichoniscoides celticus* in Bristol, Frank Ashwood visited the nearby coast at Clevedon (ST3870) and found some 'red-eyed' *Trichoniscoides* sp. under rocks on the upper shore. *T. saeroeensis* is the usual 'red-eyed' species occurring widely around the coasts of Britain. However, on at least two previous occasions (in south-east England and eastern Scotland), examination of males collected from the upper shore have proved to be *T. sarsi*. Thus, Frank forwarded some specimens to double check. These too were also *T. sarsi*, another example of it being recorded from typical *T. saeroeensis* coastal habitat. Thus, I strongly re-iterate that records of *T. saeroeensis* should not be based on field observations of pallid 'red-eyed' coastal *Trichoniscoides*. It is highly likely that *T. sarsi* may have been overlooked (and mis-identified as *T. saeroeensis*) at other sites around the British coastline. Males of both species can be identified without dissection of the pleopods. *T. sarsi* males have a hooked projection at the base of the merus of pereiopod 7, which can be seen by teasing the leg sideways (this is absent in male *T. saeroeensis* and *T. helveticus*). Similarly, *T. saeroeensis* males may be readily identified by the conspicuously slender and elongated endopod 2, (which are short and stout in *T. sarsi* and *T. helveticus*). Thus, I urge all to please check male specimens, or offer them to me for examination. I suspect that *T. sarsi* is likely to prove much more widespread around the British coast. *Steve Gregory*

Metatrichoniscoides celticus (Frank Ashwood)

A possible 13th century woodlouse/ millipede illustration

Back in days before BMIG was conceived Arthur Chater's Woodlice in the Cultural Consciousness of Modern Europe (*Isopoda*, 2, 1988, 21-30) highlighted the familiarity of woodlice, even in historical times. More recently (*BMIG Newsletter* 32, 2016, p.3), Paul Harding mentions a possible woodlouse naively depicted in a 17th century needlepoint at Parham House, Sussex. To continue the theme, last December John Lock drew my attention to an image of a 13th century text purporting to show 'maggots'. However, the lower blue 'maggot' (see image) looks rather like a 'naively depicted' woodlouse, albeit with rather too many 'legs', and the top green one

rather like a 'naively depicted' millipede. There also looks like a 'slug' (yellow image). John has some experience of reading Latin (though confesses to be rusty) and concluded that they weren't maggots, but were indeed 'many-legged land worms able to contract into a complex ball'. The image is from a 259 page medieval Christian miscellany which includes a large bestiary, unsurprisingly heavily biased to birds and mammals. This section (on page 184) is about the 'vermes' (worms and worm-like-animals) as defined by the 700 year old systematics of the time.

This concept of 'vermes' remained in common usage for many centuries, even used by Carl Linnaeus in the late 18th century and, apparently, persisted until the late 20th century in household and storage insurance contracts. John adds that the second column on the same page (not in shown in image) seems to refer to carpet beetle larvae, fly maggots, intestinal worms, clothes moths, lice, fleas and bed bugs! The full page can be viewed at https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-KK-00004-00025/184, from which all 259 pages can be accessed. If anyone can offer a translation of the page, I'll be really impressed.

Steve Gregory

Expanding *Anamastigona pulchella*?

The occurrence of the silk millipede *Anamastigona pulchella* was first documented in Northern Ireland by Roy Anderson in the mid-1990s (where it has

Anamastigona pulchella (Paul Richards)

proved to be widely naturalised). Despite expectations to the contrary, it remained unrecorded in Britain until the collection of specimens from RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey in 2011. Then followed a succession of widely scattered sites; Glasgow (2012), Oxford (2013), Cardiff (2013), Abergavenny (2014), Briton Ferry, south Wales (2018) and Chester Zoo (2019). Seven sites in nine years. This winter I'm aware of three additional sites.

On 5th October David Coles posted any image of a small brown spiky millipede 'which looked different' on BMIG's Isopods and Myriapods of Britain & Ireland group. It was sieved from well-rotted leaf litter whilst searching for beetles at the Wolseley Centre, Staffordshire (SK0220). It appeared to be immature, but did look interesting so I asked to see the specimen. With 26 body rings, 5 mm in length and eye of a flattened triangle with 3+2+2+1 indistinct ommatidia, it seemed a good fit for stadia VII of *Anamastigona pulchella*. However, there's always the possibility of

a millipede new to the UK, so David returned to the Wolseley Centre on 10th January (Chordeumatida are winter active millipedes) and successfully sieved a male (which I have examined) and two female specimens to confirm this identification. Then on 26th November Ed Hardy posted images of another brown spiky millipede on the BMIG group, which was found under a 'reptile' mat at Little Belhus Country Park, South Essex (TQ5882), again whilst looking for beetles. It was clearly an adult male, with gonopods and a conspicuously enlarged 7th leg typical of *A. pulchella*. Ed sent me the specimen for confirmation, which upon dissection seemed a better match for *A. radmani*; a millipede endemic to Croatia! However, *A. pulchella* seems to be a variable species and *A. radmani* may just represent natural species variation of the former (Dragan Antic, pers. comm.). Additionally, Mark Telfer found a single male *A. pulchella*, which he confirmed by dissection, on 31st October 2020 from the outdoor biome (gardens) of the Eden Project, Cornwall (SX0455). Also recorded were numerous *Cylindroiulus londinensis*, a female *Chordeuma* sp. and a pair of *Cylindroiulus latestriatus*.

To conclude *A. pulchella* is proving to have a wide distribution across Britain, from Cornwall to Essex in the south and north to Glasgow, but on current evidence it is very widely and thinly scattered. It may be under-recorded, but being a brown spiky millipede it does look rather different from many other run-of-the-mill millipedes (which is why both David and Ed collected their specimens). It is possibly expanding its range and I'm sure it will be found elsewhere, filling the huge voids in the current known British distribution. And, surely, it is mere coincidence that three coleopterists have found three new sites for *A. pulchella* in two months?

Steve Gregory

Ommatoiulus sabulosus

I work as an ecologist, mostly carrying out bat surveys. Part of this work includes surveying bridges in North Yorkshire to look for roosting bats in advance of repairs being carried out. The county has a wide range of bridges from ones crossing tiny streams to those over big rivers such as the Tees and Aire which makes for some interesting excursions over the summer. One of the more unusual locations was Lul Beck Bridge, which carries a track over the Lul Beck, on the moorland above Lofthouse in Nidderdale (SE135729). Unlike most of my bridges, this one entailed a two mile walk to reach it from the nearest road! Given the remote location and its position over a steep sided valley I decided to carry out my examination of the bridge itself in daylight in order to assess how to safely undertake my night-time survey of the bats.

On the afternoon of 20th June 2020 I set off for the bridge from the nearest parking place. The weather had been threatening rain all morning, but soon after setting off a sun came out and the temperature quickly reached about 25 deg. C. Arriving hot and thirsty I first checked out the underside of the bridge, before climbing back out of the valley to look over the parapets and walls alongside the track. During this latter part of the survey I soon noticed an orange and black millipede, *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* , crawling along the parapet. Then I saw another, and another, and another... Within a few minutes I realised that there must have been well over 200 on the parapets on both sides of the track. Only later, back at home, did I find out that this species is at times reported in large numbers. It was 12th July before I could get back for the evening bat survey of the bridge. There were still two or three present, but nothing like the dramatic numbers seen on my first visit.

John Drewett

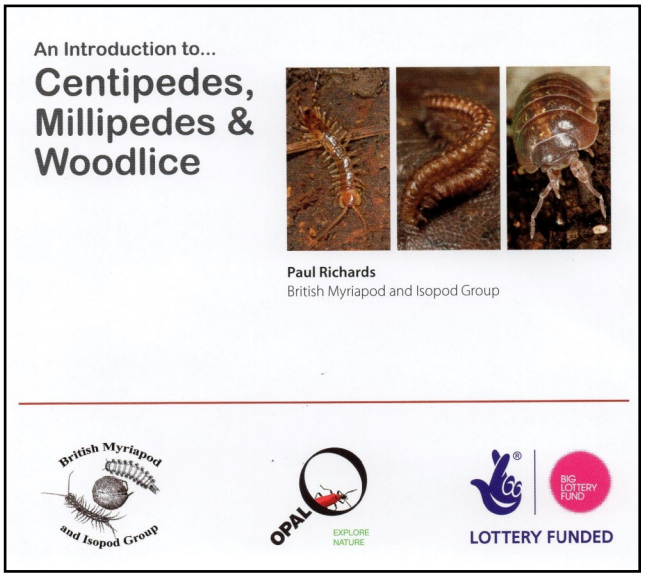
An introduction to Centipedes, Millipedes and Woodlice

Although good taxonomic guides exist for these animals, there is a gap between beginners' introductions to invertebrates and specialist literature for identification. This e-Book bridges this gap and aims to popularise these animals in an accessible way. The e-Book is available on CD, covering most of the Centipedes, Millipedes and Woodlice, found in Britain and Ireland. The three guides are intended as a resource to help promote study of these groups, including introductory keys, natural histories and a rich library of images.

Now available directly from BMIG - Please contact the BMIG Treasurer /Sales (see Contacts, below).

Single copy £7.00 (CD £5.00 plus £2.00 p&p, in UK). Bulk orders attract a 25% discount e.g. 5 copies £22.00 (CDs £18.75.00 plus £3.25 p&p). Please enquire about overseas orders.

Paul Richards



BMIG training on the web

In the absence of opportunities for face to face workshops and field training, the enforced rise of 'virtual' events has enabled many more people to attend training sessions in the comfort of their own homes at no cost. Within the constraints of broadband and IT glitches, of course! With the freedom for the curious and overseas newcomers to join us, we have seen a great deal of engagement beyond our usual sphere. Some BMIG members will have already attended the introductions to myriapods which I presented for the Tanyptera Project over the last few months. The recent webinar on centipedes had over 200 people booked on, from right across the UK to Belgium, Germany and even an early riser from the USA! If you missed them, they are available on YouTube at:

Introduction to UK Centipedes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEd3Ou73ov8

Introduction to UK Millipedes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9GHMeXtfRc

Both of these talks were based on the BMIG digital CD guide. Get comfortable, they are very long! The final part(s) on woodlice will take place before Easter.

Woodlice part 1 on **25th March** will be a general introduction to woodlice, their life history, collecting and recording.

Woodlice part 2 on **1st April** will focus on identification characteristics and recognising some common and distinctive British species.

They are to be held on Thursday evenings at 19:30 – 21:00. They are FREE, but you need to register with the Tanyptera project to receive the Zoom

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details. So book a place, pour yourself a drink and settle down for a couple of evenings of isopod fun! https://www.northwestinvertebrates.org.uk/event/woodlice/

I am also planning on presenting another webinar for Tanyptera looking at some slightly obscure 'other invertebrate orders' on 26th August, which will include another passing mention of the myriapods (details tbc).

Paul Richards

Notices

Plans are well advanced for the 11th *International Symposium on the Biology of Terrestrial Isopods* (ISTIB) to take place on 12th-13th-14th of July 2021. It will be an online event hosted from Ghent in Belgium. Further information will be posted on the BMIG website https://www.bmig.org.uk/page/conferences as soon as it is available.

Spring newsletter items to Warren Maguire by 7th September 2021.

Bulletin items to Helen Read by 1st February 2022.

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