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## A checklist of Lancashire and Cheshire woodlice

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In spite of the fact that woodlice are amongst our most abundant and conspicuous invertebrates, they have never attracted much attention amongst Lancashire and Cheshire naturalists. The earliest systematic study of these animals in our faunal area was undertaken by Richard Standen (1874-1925) of Manchester Museum who contributed annual reports to the Lancashire Naturalist and the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society journals from 1909 to 1922. With the help of a small band of friends and correspondents, including the pioneer arachnologist A.R. Jackson who supplied details of his collecting in the Chester district, Standen produced a preliminary list of 20 local species in 1914. (Standen, 1914). This was followed by a list of 25 species in his report for 1916-1917. This also included information on the various colour varieties of the commoner species (Standen, 1917).

This list was published without reservation by Harry Britten in 1930 for the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Committee except for the addition of *Trichoniscoides sarsi* Patience and *Porcellio laevis* Latreille (Britten, 1930).

Subsequently, little or anything of note appeared in the local natural history journals. Ernest Taylor wrote about *Porcellio ratzeburgii* Brandt in Lancashire and Cheshire (Taylor, 1932) - a species now deleted from the British isopod list (Harding & Sutton, 1985). A series of long articles by W.C. Collinge about British woodlice appeared in the North Western Naturalist from September 1941 to September 1944 and included references to Lancashire and Cheshire species based on the work of Standen (Collinge, 1941-1944).

In recent years, apart from my own systematic recording, mostly of common species and that of a few other enthusiasts, interest in woodlice appears to be no better than formerly. John Daws calls for particular mention for he has been responsible for many important records, especially for Cheshire during 1989-1991. Among these are *Trichoniscoides saeroeensis* Lohmander at Eastham in 1989 and *Porcellio cingendus* (Kinahan) on the Wirral in 1989, 1990 and 1991, which are new Cheshire county records. These and other specimens are housed in the Entomology Section at Liverpool Museum.

In the light of modern knowledge of woodlouse distribution in Britain (Harding & Sutton, 1985) reasonable doubt is cast on the validity of the following seven

species listed by Britten (1930). Several of these are records of greenhouse aliens, whilst others are almost certainly misidentifications.

	Cheshire	Lancashire
<i>Ligidium hypnorum</i> (Cuvier)	NS	NS
<i>Trichoniscoides albidus</i> (Budde-Lund)	NS	NS
<i>Trichoniscoides sarsi</i> Patience	GA	.
<i>Amadillidium nasatum</i> Budde-Lund	GA	GA
<i>Trachelipus rathkei</i> (Brandt)	NS	NS
<i>Trachelipus ratzeburgii</i> (Brandt)	X	X
<i>Agabiformius lentus</i> (Budde-Lund)	*	*

\* alien: X species omitted from British check-list: NS no supporting specimens known: GA greenhouse alien.

However, *Amadillidium pulchellum* Brandt recorded in 1916 at Peckforton, Cheshire and at Broxton, Cheshire in 1917 by B.R. Lucas should be retained, as should the Lancashire records of *Porcellionoides pruinosus* (Brandt) and *Porcellio dilatatus* Brandt (Standen, 1917). Thus, the following 21 species represent the Lancashire and Cheshire woodlouse fauna recorded in one or both counties and can be verified (except *A. pulchellum*) with museum data specimens.

The following list follows the taxonomic arrangement given by Harding and Sutton (1985).

\* PRE 1930 + Post 1980

	Lancashire	Cheshire
<i>Ligia oceanica</i> (L.)	+	+
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i> Verhoeff	+	+
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i> Budde-Lund	+	+
<i>Haplophthalmus mengei</i> (Zaddach)	+	+
<i>Trichoniscoides saerøeensis</i> Lohmander	.	+
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i> Brandt	+	+
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i> Sars	+	+
<i>Oniscus asellus</i> L.	+	+
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i> (Scopoli)	+	+
<i>Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii</i> Brandt	+	+
<i>Amadillidium album</i> Dollfus	+	.
<i>Amadillidium pictum</i> Brandt	+	.
<i>Amadillidium vulgare</i> (Latreille)	+	+
<i>Amadillidium pulchellum</i> (Zenker)	*	*
<i>Cylisticus convexus</i> (DeGeer)	+	+
<i>Porcellio dilatatus</i> Brandt	*	+
<i>Porcellio laevis</i> Latreille	*	+
<i>Porcellio scaber</i> Latreille	+	+
<i>Porcellio spinicomis</i> Say	+	+

(cont.)	Lancashire	Cheshire
<i>Porcellio cingendus</i> (Kinahan)	.	+
<i>Porcellionides pruinosus</i> (Brandt)	*	+
Total Species	19	19

## Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Jon Daws and Steve Cross for records.

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## Aculeate Hymenoptera on Hilbre Island (V.C. 58) in 1998

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I recorded the following species of bees, wasps and ants on Hilbre Island (SJ1888) in 1998:

**Dryinidae:** *Aphelopus melaleucus* (Dalman) - Male on blackthorn, 24 May. **Fomicidae:** *Lasius niger* (L.) - Worker in Malaise trap, 4 - 7 August. *Myrmica scabrinodis* Nylander - Female in Malaise trap, 4 - 7 August. *Myrmica ruginodis* Nylander - 11 females and one male in Malaise trap, 4 - 7 August. **Eumenidae:** *Ancistrocerus gazella* (Panzer) - Males taken from flowers on 5 and 6 August. **Vespidae:** *Vespula germanica* (Fab.) - Worker in Malaise trap, 4 - 7 August. **Sphecidae:** *Crossocenus elongatulus* (Van der Linden) - Nesting in hole in wall, 5 August. *Crossocenus quadrimaculatus* (Fab.) - Pair on sycamore leaf, on 5 August. **Andrenidae:** *Andrena haemorrhoa* (Fab.) - Taken from sycamore leaf, on 17 May. - Common around the island. *Andrena nigroaenea* (Kirby) - Several around the south end, on 17 May. **Halictidae:** *Sphecodes geofrellus* (Kirby) - Female, on 17 May. **Anthophoridae:** *Nomada succincta* Panzer - Female investigating holes (dug by *Andrena*?) in sandy ledge at south end, on 17 May. *Nomada fabriciana* (L.) - Male on thrift flower, north end, on 17 May. *Epeolus cruciger* (Panzer) - Male on *Leontodon* flower, 5 August. **Apidae:** *Bombus lucorum* (L.) *B. monticola* Smith, *B. pascuorum* (Scopoli) and *B. pratorum* (L.) - All seen in August.