

THE BRITISH ISOPODA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER OF THE ISOPODA SURVEY SCHEME

No. 4

January, 1971

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

1. PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME

For much of the year we have been preparing the new Collectors Recording Card (see below), and devising a new illustrated key to the British woodlice. Consequently, relatively little field work has been done. However, collectors have been as far afield as the Orkneys and Cornwall, while a special trophy ought to be presented to the Rev. E.J.Pearce for making no fewer than 146 different collections during the year from various parts of the country!

2. FINANCE

We are very grateful to the John Spedan Lewis Trust for giving us a further £100 towards our expenses. Their help has enabled us to plan several years ahead with confidence, and to launch the new card effectively.

3. REORGANISATION

We would like to welcome Dr. Roger Lincoln to active participation in the running of the scheme. He and Dr. David Holdich are devising a recording card for marine isopods, which the Biological Records Centre feel they should be able to print for us. In future, all correspondence about marine isopods should be addressed to Dr. Lincoln at the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7. At the same time it has been decided to centralise all the correspondence about terrestrial and fresh-water forms through the Department of Zoology, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT. All letters, specimens and cards should now be sent to Dr. S.L.Sutton at that address, whence they will be distributed to Messrs. John Metcalfe and Paul Harding as necessary.

4. THE NEW COLLECTORS RECORDING CARD

This card has two aims: (i) to correct the deficiencies of our original card; and (ii) to allow data to be transferred directly to 80 column punch cards for computer analysis. It has been produced as a result of collaboration with the Myriapod Study Group, and has been produced in three versions, each with the same habitat classification, but with chilopods, diplopods or non-marine isopod species listed. (Note: marine isopods have been excluded as they will have their own card (q.v.))

At first sight the new card looks somewhat complicated, but provided the instructions have been read first, it is quite straight-forward to use. The instructions have been printed on a separate, four page card, which should be kept accessible when cards are being filled-out. There is a plentiful supply of spares. We realise that there are bound to be queries, and we hope that you will write for guidance on any points not covered.

REMEMBER, PLEASE, THAT IT IS VITAL TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING-OUT THE CARDS.

5. APPEAL FOR ACTIVE COLLECTING

Now that the card is at long last ready, we hope for really active collecting by a large number of people. We shall print a map showing poorly worked areas of Britain in the spring Newsletter.

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D.M.Holdich
R.J.Lincoln
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S.L.Sutton