



WOODLICE

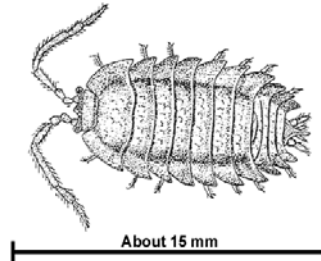
(CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER ISOPODA)

The Woodlouse is a species of arthropod from the Class Crustacea. There are 38 species of woodlice in Britain some of which are of agricultural or horticultural significance, and the commonest by far is the garden woodlouse (*Porcellio Scaber Latreille*). All species of woodlice live in damp conditions and are commonly found under stones or in dead and rotten vegetation.

Woodlice become sexually mature at about half size, full size taking up to a year to achieve. Females lay up to 150 eggs which are contained in a brood pouch within her body to be released into the environment on hatching. Breeding only takes place once a year.

Woodlice are of no public health significance and neither breed nor cause damage indoors but they may cause alarm if they enter houses in significant numbers where they can be simply eradicated by ordinary cleansing measures. For these reasons the Council does not provide a service for the treatment of woodlice.

A great hazard to their survival is desiccation which is why they normally invade basements or other damp rooms in houses during autumn and winter.



The clearing of garden rubbish and articles such as boards, boxes and flower pots will reduce the harbourage sites for woodlice, as will the eradication of damp conditions (for which you may need to seek the advice of a good builder or damp control company).

If you would like an explanation of this fact sheet in your language or to obtain copies in Braille, on audio tape or large print please contact 01509 634560

For further information contact:

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