

THE BRITISH ISOPODA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER OF THE ISOPODA SURVEY SCHEME

No. 6

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(PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

1. PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME:

Winter is not the best time for collecting woodlice, and not very much material has come in recently. However, there has been a lot of activity in transferring records from old recording cards to new ones, and in sorting through collections made last summer. We have been fortunate in receiving from Dr. W.D. Williams of Monash University, Australia, his set of record cards on the distribution of *Asellus aquaticus* and *A. meridianus* in Britain. His information will be very useful in setting up distribution maps for these species.

The task of getting information from recording cards onto punch cards is well under way, and in fact two and a half thousand are now ready for sorting and analysis using the computer facilities at Leeds University. In this respect we are well ahead of the time schedule we set ourselves.

2. MARINE RECORD CARD:

This should be ready for distribution soon after Easter, and we are keen to have as many recorders as possible. Further details can be obtained from Dr. R.J. Lincoln, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

3. CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

In October P.T.H. took up a permanent post with the Nature Conservancy, and has now taken over much of the administration. All correspondence concerning the recording of terrestrial and fresh-water isopods should be addressed to him: P.T. Harding, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon. R.J.L. at the British Museum will deal with correspondence about marine isopods.

4. BOOK:

The book by S.L.S. on 'Woodlice' has now been published, after many delays. It is written for anyone with an interest in the group and is an introductory text giving the basic facts about the biology of these animals and how they can be studied. At the same time an attempt has been made to summarise recent research work on them, and to provide a bibliography which will allow particular topics to be followed up in the literature by anyone who is interested. There are also suggestions for further research work and detailed practical exercises suitable for schools. One chapter consists of a key to British species of woodlice, which has been designed by S.L.S. and P.T.H. to be suitable for beginners as well as useful to more experienced people. To this end there are many line drawings and illustrations of all the common species, seven of them in colour. Details of the Isopod Survey Scheme and the record cards are given in an Appendix. The book has 144 pages, it is published by Ginn & Co., London at £2.00, and can be ordered through booksellers. However, members of the Survey Scheme can purchase a copy direct from S.L.S. (Dr. S.L. Sutton, Department of Pure and Applied Zoology, The University, Leeds, LS2 9JT) for £1.50 post free until the end of May. The key is available as an offprint and can be ordered from booksellers at 50p.

5. DISTRIBUTION MAP FOR *Armadillidium album*:

This is the first map we have done and is probably quite an accurate assessment, as many of the likely sites have now been searched. Virtually all the work has been done by P.T.H. who has recently summarised the distribution of the species in the British Isles. (*Entomologists Monthly Magazine*, 104: 269-272, 1969), but further localities have been recorded since then. It must be regarded as one of our rarest woodlice.

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