

It is regretted that ten months have passed since Newsletter No. 8 appeared in July 1974 and that this Newsletter consists only of progress reports and an urgent appeal for records. We hope to be able to produce Newsletters on a more regular basis, although they will probably only appear annually owing to the costs of production and distribution.

Progress of the Non-marine scheme

There have been considerable advances since July 1974. Professor Moon and S.L.S. have both completed putting their past records onto cards. We now have records from over 1000 ten-kilometre squares for Woodlice, and from 500 squares for Asellus. It is hoped that, with the agreement of the Biological Records Centre, we will be able to produce a Provisional Atlas of distribution maps for all native species in 1976.

In order to produce the Atlas, as many records as possible are required in Summer 1975. The attached map shows the distribution of squares from which records have been received for Woodlice. It is hoped that recorders will concentrate on covering unrecorded squares wherever possible. For records to be included in the Atlas they must reach P.T.H. by mid-October 1975 at the latest. Specimens for identification should be sent to P.T.H. or S.L.S., see addresses below.

Some interesting collections have been made during the year with new localities for several rare species, such as Eluma purpurascens, Oritoniscus flavus, Trichoniscoides albidus, Armadillidium album and A. pulchellum. Two alien species, Reductoniscus costulatus and Cordioniscus stebbingi have been rediscovered in greenhouses at Kew by Dr. Adrian Rundle.

A dozen recorders in Ireland have volunteered to assist the scheme following appeals published by the Irish Biological Records Centre and the Irish Naturalists Journal. In Surrey Dr. Rundle has embarked on a survey of the Isopoda on a tetrad (2 km x 2 km square) basis, and has already recorded 21 species including the two from Kew mentioned earlier. It is largely thanks to him, to Mrs. M.H. Dolling and to Eric Philp that we now have records from almost every 10 km square in Surrey and Kent. Similar valient "square bashing" has been done by Glyn and Dawn Collis (Scotland), Douglas Richardson (N. Yorkshire) and Dr. Roger Bray (South and Central Wales).

Progress of the Marine Scheme

During the last year almost all the literature containing records of species from the coastline and seas around the British Isles has been searched, and the records put onto individual species record cards. A complete bibliography has been compiled at the same time.

Although it is hoped to produce some preliminary maps in the near future, a decision on whether to produce a distribution Atlas must wait until the extent of

coverage is properly known. Even at this stage it is known that large areas of the coast are under-recorded and records/specimens from anywhere would be welcomed by R.J.L. or D.M.H. - see addresses below.

A short paper on the Marine scheme was published by D.M.H. and R.J.L. in "Field Studies", Vol. 4, No. 1, (1974), 97-104.

Examination of Museum Collections

To augment the records we receive from recorders and those records from the literature which are considered to be reliable, we are attempting to examine the larger collections held in museums. The British Museum (Natural History) collection of Marine species from British and Irish waters has been examined and checked by R.J.L. and all usable records have been put onto individual record cards. Similarly most of the B.M. collection of non-marine species from the British Isles has been checked and carded by P.T.H.

The W.E. Collinge collection has been re-discovered at the Yorkshire Museum, and is at present on loan to P.T.H. It includes named specimens and seemingly unsorted collections, together with numerous documents including the manuscript of a Monograph on the British Woodlice.

A grant has been obtained from the Royal Irish Academy to enable P.T.H. to work at the Irish National Museum, Dublin, later this year, to check and catalogue their collection of Irish Woodlice.

Information on the existence of other collections in museums or elsewhere would be appreciated by R.J.L. (Marine) and P.T.H. (Non-marine).

Non-Marine Isopoda

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Marine Isopoda

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