

THE BRITISH ISOPODA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER OF THE ISOPODA SURVEY SCHEME

No. 8

July 1974

(PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

1. PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME:

This is the first Newsletter since January 1973, during which time the Scheme has progressed much as before. With a few notable exceptions, collectors were not very active last year, and we hope that 1974 will prove more productive. Over 1,000 completed record cards were received in 1973, but many of these result from collecting done in past years by Professor Moon and S.L.S. However some interesting collections have been received from Perthshire, Yorkshire and Kent, with a good scatter of smaller collections from other areas.

A total of 3,500 record cards have now been sent in, of which 2,500 have been processed by the Biological Records Centre to produce punched cards. About 500 individual record cards have also been processed by B.R.C. These were derived mainly from literature sources and Dr. W.D. William's *Asellus* records (see Newsletter No. 6).

Some species of interest are: *Trachelipus rathkei* from several sites in Kent, Hunts, and Northants; *Armadillidium nasatum* from Kent; *A. album* apparently extending its range in Norfolk, having been found on Scolt Head Island, and *Eluma purpurascens* occurring commonly on the southern cliffs of Howth, Co. Dublin.

Attendance at Meetings, etc.

B.I.S.G. was represented by P.T.H. at the 2nd International Symposium of the European Invertebrate Survey at Monks Wood in August 1973. A small exhibit on the B.I.S.G. schemes aroused considerable interest with delegates from several countries, Dr. C.P. Fairhurst (Myriapod Study Group) gave a paper titled "Distribution studies on certain soil Invertebrates" which dealt with the habitat system used by the Myriapoda and Non-marine Isopoda Schemes. A lively discussion followed and much interest was expressed in the habitat classification used.

The Annual Delegates Meeting of National Biological Societies was held in Juniper Hall in November 1973. B.I.S.G. was represented by P.T.H. Lectures were received on various aspects of data processing and biological recording in the British Isles and Europe. Delegates were requested to organise the completion of lists of endangered species within their particular discipline. This is being considered by B.I.S.G. at present. The availability of funds for research on rare or endangered species through the World Wildlife Fund was mentioned. B.I.S.G. seemed to be one of the few societies to have already benefited from these funds (see below - Survey of *Halophiloscia couchi*).

2. FIELD COURSES AT MONKS WOOD IN SEPTEMBER 1973:

A weekend field course led by P.T.H. and S.L.S. was attended by 10 people. Visits were made to 4 nature reserves in the vicinity of Monks Wood. Collecting was done in fen grassland, woodland, limestone grassland and quarries. Despite the hot dry weather 10 species of Isopoda were seen and collecting problems with some species were demonstrated. A display of preserved specimens of most of the native British species proved to be of considerable interest, and several people used the opportunity to familiarise themselves with species which they had not seen before.

It is hoped that a similar course may be held in 1975 - anybody who would be interested in such a venture is asked to contact P.T.H. at Monks Wood.

<i>Campeopea hirsuta</i>	on lichens (<i>Lichina pygmaea</i>) upper eulittoral.
<i>Cymodoce truncata</i>	<i>Corallina</i> , <i>Zostera</i> , <i>Grantia</i> , various algae – infra-littoral fringe.
<i>Dynamene bidentata</i>	most intertidal algae except <i>Pelvetia</i> and <i>Laminaria</i> .
<i>Gnathia maxillaris</i>	<i>Grantia</i> .
<i>Idotea granulosa</i>	on most intertidal furoid algae.
<i>Idotea pelagica</i>	stunted furoid algae – exposed shores.
<i>Idotea baltica</i> , <i>emarginata</i> , <i>neglecta</i>	algal debris, drift weed, furoid and red algae on lower shore and in sublittoral. First two species may also be found stranded in large numbers in infra-littoral fringe pools on Spring tides.
<i>Idotea linearis</i>	mainly sublittoral but may also occur on drift weed.
<i>Idotea chelipes</i>	brackish pools and seaward half of estuaries on green algae – upper shore.
<i>Jaera albifrons</i> , <i>forsmani</i> , <i>ischiosetosa</i> , <i>prae-hirsuta</i>	on various furoid algae and sponges.
<i>Jaera nordmanni</i>	as above but in more estuarine situations.
<i>Janira maculosa</i>	associated with various algae, bryozoans, and sponges in the infra-littoral fringe.
<i>Janiropsis breviremis</i>	in eulittoral rock pools associated with sponges (may actually be inside) hydroids, and coralline algae.
<i>Munna minuta</i>	associated with hydroids such as <i>Tubularia</i> , sponges, coralline algae – lower shore.
<i>Sphaeroma rugicauda</i> , <i>monodi</i> , <i>hookeri</i>	amongst the roots of reeds in estuarine conditions.
<i>Synisoma acuminatum</i>	brown and red weeds on lower shore.
<i>Zenobiana prismatica</i>	<i>Zostera</i> – lower shore.

7. BBC BROADCAST

In February last year S.L.S. and his two research students Keith Sunderland and Mark Hassall took part in a half hour Radio 4 programme on 'Woodlice' in the 'Living World' series. This provoked a large correspondence and an article in The Listener (which was headed by a picture purporting to be a pill-bug but which was, in fact, our old friend and deceiver the millipede *Glomeris marginata*!) The programme has now been put into the archives, whence bits of it were briefly exhumed a few weeks ago to add a bit of tone to John Ebdon's early morning programme.

8. NEW BOOK:

Professor Cloudsley-Thompson of Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London, W.C.1 writes to say that his book 'Water and Temperature Relations of Woodlice' will definitely be published by the Mellow Publishing Co. this year. It was originally due to come out in 1971.

9. PUBLISHED WORK ON ISOPODS:

A further selection of papers:

BEALE, I.L. 1971

WEBSTER, D.M.

Release of leg movement cues to turn alternation in the woodhouse
Porcellio Scaber.

Animal Behaviour 19: 353-356

Provisional 1973

ASELLUS CAUATICUS Schiodte

- 1960 onwards
- Pre 1960

