

A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Woodlice

Second revision February 2018



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Introduction

Despite the near certainty of at least two (probably three) species of Woodlice being present in every single square kilometer of the county, the recording of these particularly common and easily accessible invertebrates in Nottinghamshire has always been limited.

Even when the great Victorian naturalists were at their peak, collecting and recording our local invertebrate fauna over a century ago, virtually none of them seemed to have any real interest in Woodlice and there were just eight species on the Nottinghamshire list by the turn of this century.

Recent years have seen a renewed interest in both Myriapods (Centipedes and Millipedes) and Isopods (Woodlice and Waterlice) and that interest has generated a huge increase in the number of records from Nottinghamshire of both groups. Our own contribution has been over 1,500 records since our interest began in 2013, with over 500 of these being records of Woodlice.

These records have recently been passed on to the Nottingham Biological and Geological Record Centre, and will subsequently filter down to the respective national recording schemes. With many records coming during the colder months of the year, one of the attractions for someone wishing to broaden their natural history interest, would be to begin recording Centipedes and Millipedes. That then, usually leads to an interest in recording Woodlice.

Woodlice can be found in all but the very coldest Winters and a range of species can quickly be found in many suburban gardens. Increased interest over recent years, has seen the number of generated records increase and the number of new Woodlice recorded as new to Nottinghamshire, subsequently forms the basis of this second revision of *A Modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Woodlice*. This edition includes species summaries and distribution maps for *Haplophthalmus danicus*, *Haplophthalmus mengii*, *Trichoniscoides albidus*, *Trichoniscus provisorius*, *Porcellio dilatatus* and *Armadillidium nasatum*, which have all been recorded for the first time in Nottinghamshire, since the first edition was published in 2015 and now take the county list to double what the Victorians left us with.

This edition also provides updated distribution maps (as of January 2018) for all the Woodlice recorded in the county over recent years. We have continued to decline the use of historical records in the maps, but have listed all the species we can trace as having been recorded in the county. Waterlice (*Asellidae*) have not been included, but *Asellus aquaticus* is abundant in most water bodies throughout Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire's historical Woodlice records

With a general lack of interest in Isopods remaining until 2013, J.W. Carr's book "*The Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire*" published in 1916, was all we had available to us, from which to source records for a county atlas of Nottinghamshire Woodlice.

As prolific as most of the Victorian naturalists were, it seems that only C.E. Pearson and J.W. Carr himself, actually did any Woodlice recording in the county. Pearson provided Nottinghamshire's only record of *Porcellio dilatatus* from a Chilwell greenhouse, while both naturalists also recorded the county's early records of *Porcellionides pruinosus* from Chilwell, Lowdham and Sherwood Rise in Nottingham.

Between them, Carr and Pearson recorded *Armadillidium vulgare* (Common Pill Woodlouse), *Oniscus asellus* (Common Shiny Woodlouse), *Philoscia muscorum* (Common Striped Woodlouse), *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii* (Ant Woodlouse), *Porcellio dilatatus*, *Porcellio scaber* (Common Rough Woodlouse) *Porcellionides pruinosus* (Plum Woodlouse) and *Trichoniscus pusillus* (Common Pygmy Woodlouse) in Nottinghamshire.

***Porcellionides pruinosus* and *Porcellio dilatatus* records on the NBN Atlas**

A search of the NBN Gateway, provided recent records for both *Porcellionides pruinosus* and *Porcellio dilatatus* from over the Nottinghamshire border in Leicestershire at Normanton (Daws, J.), but our research provided no modern Nottinghamshire records. However, both species have recently been recorded (late 2015 and early 2016).

In suitable habitat, *Porcellionides pruinosus* is probably widespread over much of Nottinghamshire, but *Porcellio dilatatus* may prove to be more difficult to find. *Porcellio dilatatus* often associates with *Porcellionides pruinosus* and the two species are characteristic Woodlice of farms, often found in well-established manure heaps, but also under stones and other farm debris/rubbish.

Recent Woodlice recording in Nottinghamshire

Aware that there had been little in the way of attempts to record Woodlice, we began to make concerted efforts to record them in 2013. Within just a few months, we had added both *Androniscus dentiger* (Rosy Woodlouse) and *Armadillidium depressum* as being new to Nottinghamshire.

In early 2016 Derek Whiteley added *Trichoniscoides albidus* to the county list, from sites near Newark and in September 2016 we recorded *Armadillidium nasatum* from Southwell Garden Centre.

Two other recent county additions, include *Haplophthalmus danicus* and *Haplophthalmus mengii*, both coming in 2017 and the first record of *Trichoniscus provisorius* in the county in early 2018. With such a small county list, more species must surely be awaiting discovery.

Species photographs



Androniscus dentiger



Haplophthalmus danicus



Haplophthalmus mengii



Trichoniscoides albidus



Trichoniscus provisorius



Trichoniscus pusillus



Philoscia muscorum



Platyarthus hoffmannseggi



Oniscus asellus



Porcellio dilatatus



Porcellio scaber



Porcellio spinicornis



Porcellionides pruinosus



Armadillidium depressum



Armadillidium vulgare



Armadillidium nasatum



Oniscus asellus



Porcellio scaber



Androniscus dentiger



Philoscia muscorum

Species accounts

Androniscus dentiger (Verhoeff, 1908)

A small (4-5mm) Woodlouse which is found under logs and stones. This beautifully coloured species is turning out to be widespread, but thinly scattered across much of western Nottinghamshire and has been recorded from a number of synanthropic sites.

Haplophthalmus danicus (Budde-Lund, 1880)

This is a tiny Woodlouse and one of three extremely similar species of *Haplophthalmus* found in the UK. Because they are so small (to as little as 4mm) and are completely soil-dwelling, there are still very few Nottinghamshire records, but it is starting to be found more. Now known from Rufford, Sherwood Forest CP, Clipstone Old Quarter and found at Cuckney in early 2018.

Haplophthalmus mengii (Zaddach, 1844)

Haplophthalmus mengii is another tiny subterranean Woodlouse, which seems to have been unknown from Nottinghamshire, until a single specimen was found underneath a small log part-buried in old bark chippings at Ransom Wood in August 2017 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.). It was recorded at Clipstone Old Quarter in Sherwood Forest (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) in October that same year and at Attenborough NR (Sexton, T.) in early 2018. Probably more common than the lack of records suggests.

Trichoniscoides albidus (Budde-Lund, 1880)

Discovered as new to Nottinghamshire when found at two sites on the River Trent at Farndon near Newark (Whiteley, D.) in January 2016 and more recently found amongst flood debris along banks of the Trent at Stoke Bardolph (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) in February 2017.

Trichoniscus provisorius (Racovitza, 1908)

Almost certainly as common and widespread as the visually identical *Trichoniscus pusillus*. Because of the identification difficulties, the male needs examining under a microscope to identify to species level. *Trichoniscus provisorius* was once considered to be a form of *Trichoniscus pusillus* Brandt, 1833, but was given full species status a number of years ago. The only record is from Sherwood Forest CP in February 2018.

Trichoniscus pusillus (Brandt, 1833)

An extremely common and very small Woodlouse, with a length of just 4mm at maximum. These are often found under logs in most damp habitats, but there is one other visually identical species of which the male needs examining under a microscope to identify.

Philoscia muscorum (Scopoli, 1833)

A common Woodlouse, usually found in more vegetated areas and regularly encountered on low foliage after dark. A fairly fast moving and well marked species, which has turned up in urban and suburban gardens.

Platyarthus hoffmannseggi (Brandt, 1833)

A small, but regularly encountered white Woodlouse, which is far more widespread in the county than our distribution map would suggest. It spends its entire life underground in ant nests, with *Lasius niger*, *Lasius flavus* and *Myrmica rubra*, being the commonest host species for this 3-4mm long Woodlouse.

Oniscus asellus ssp. asellus (Linnaeus, 1758)

A very common Woodlouse, which is probably present in every single Km square in Nottinghamshire. It is found in all habitats including urban gardens and is one of our most familiar species.

Porcellio dilatatus (Brandt, 1833)

Nationally described as being rare, *Porcellio dilatatus* is typically a Woodlouse of synanthropic sites and often found on or around farms. In Nottinghamshire, the only known record was from a greenhouse in Chilwell in the early 1900's and there were no subsequent records, until we found it present in an old milking shed at a Lambley farm in January 2016. Despite seemingly being so rare in the county, it is likely to be present at other Nottinghamshire farms.

Porcellio scaber (Latreille, 1804)

An extremely common Woodlouse across the whole of Nottinghamshire and probably present in every square Km of the county. It is found under logs and stones etc, often in large numbers.

Porcellio spinicornis (Say, 1818)

A common and well distributed Woodlouse over most of the UK, although large areas devoid of records are more likely representative of recorder coverage than species distribution. In Nottinghamshire, *Porcellio spinicornis* was previously known only from a single West Bridgford record in 1975 (Holdich, D.M.) but we found this Woodlouse to be common underneath loose mortar on several Nottinghamshire Churches during 2015.

Porcellionides pruinosus (Brandt, 1833)

A common and well distributed Woodlouse over most of the UK and presumably in Nottinghamshire, although there have been only two recent records. Found at Tug Bridge Farm near Eakring in December 2015, just a few weeks after one was found at Brackenhurst near Southwell (Heeney, W. and Skinner, M. Lugg, K. and Lugg, B.). Despite the scarcity of county records, *Porcellionides pruinosus* will very likely be encountered within the manure heaps of many Nottinghamshire farms.

Armadillidium depressum (Brandt, 1833)

A large Woodlouse with the ability to roll into a slightly open ball when threatened. This characteristic is a useful technique in helping to determine identity, but should not be used alone when confirming identification. *Armadillidium depressum* was a surprise find on the wall of Carr Bank Park, on Bath Lane in Mansfield in 2013 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.), when found tucked into a small eroded piece of stonework and measured 18mm in length. Has been recorded at the same location since and also at Mapperley. Generally a Woodlouse of the south-west UK.

Armadillidium nasatum (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Discovered as new to Nottinghamshire in September 2016, when several specimens were found at the Southwell Garden Centre (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.). It was also found in good numbers on the site of the former Bilsthorpe Colliery in 2017 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.). It is often recorded from old quarries, garden centres and brownfield sites and has been well recorded in neighbouring Leicestershire for years (Daws, J.) and should continue to turn up at more sites in Nottinghamshire.

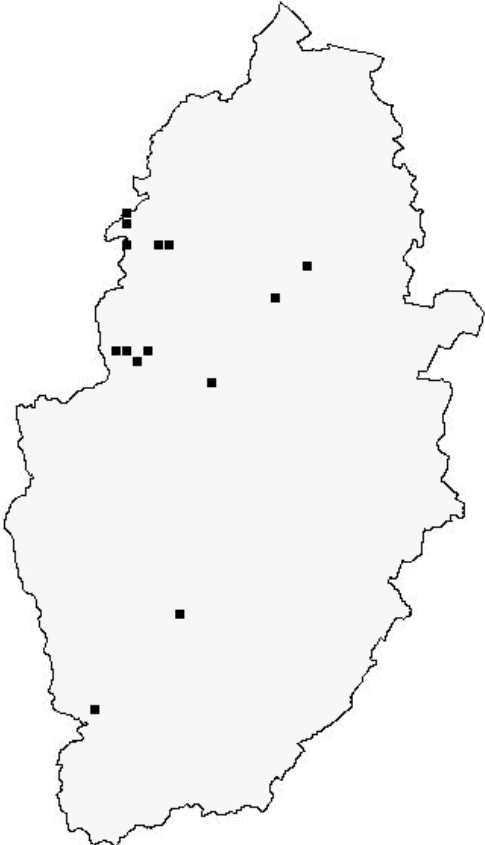
Armadillidium vulgare (Latreille, 1804)

A common Woodlouse which could easily be mistaken for the Pill Millipede (*Glomeris marginata*). It is usually found under logs or stones, but does not seem to be widespread in the county. However, it can be found in small numbers at Warsop Main Pit Top and at many other sites in the Mansfield area.

The Nottinghamshire distribution maps

The distribution maps are presently built upon the records of the following contributors. Keith and Belinda Lugg, Wil Heeney, Derek Whiteley, Paul Richards, Meg Skinner, Tim Sexton, Darren Matthews, Trevor and Dilys Pendleton, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Netherfield Wildlife Group and the National Trust.

Androniscus dentiger (Verhoeff, 1908)



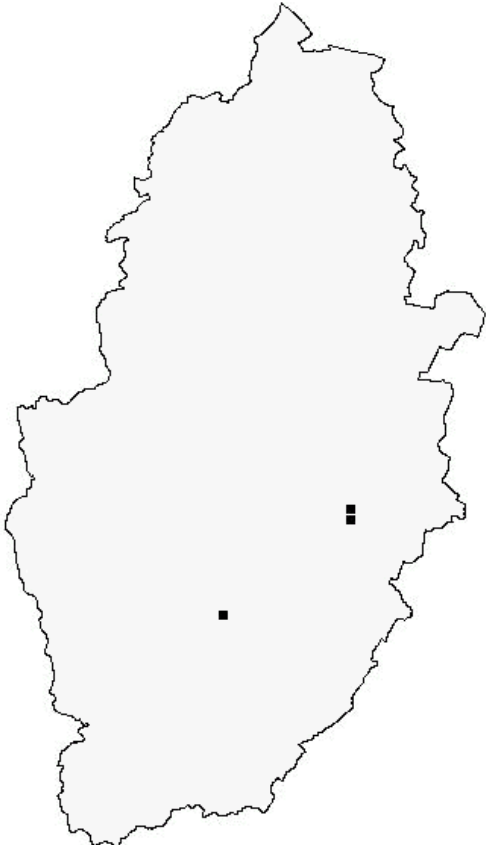
Haplophthalmus danicus (Budde-Lund, 1880)



Haplophthalmus mengii (Zaddach, 1844)



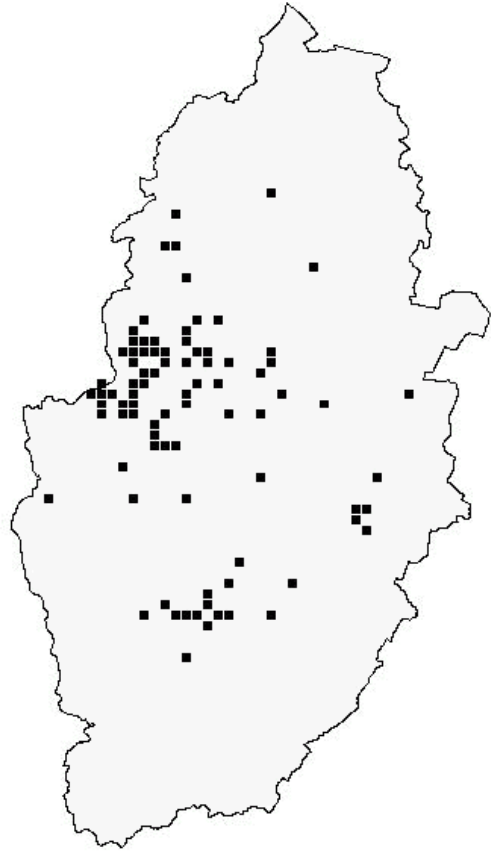
Trichoniscoides albidus (Budde-Lund, 1880)



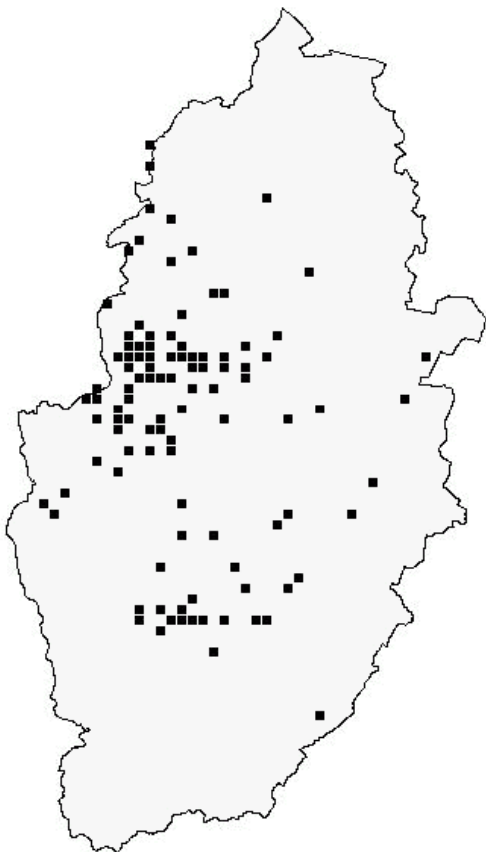
Trichoniscus provisorius (Racovitza, 1908)



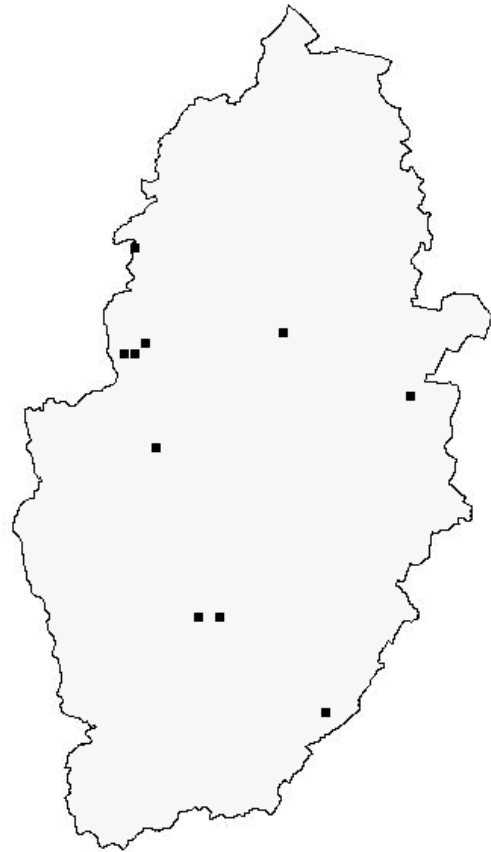
Trichoniscus pusillus (Brandt, 1833)



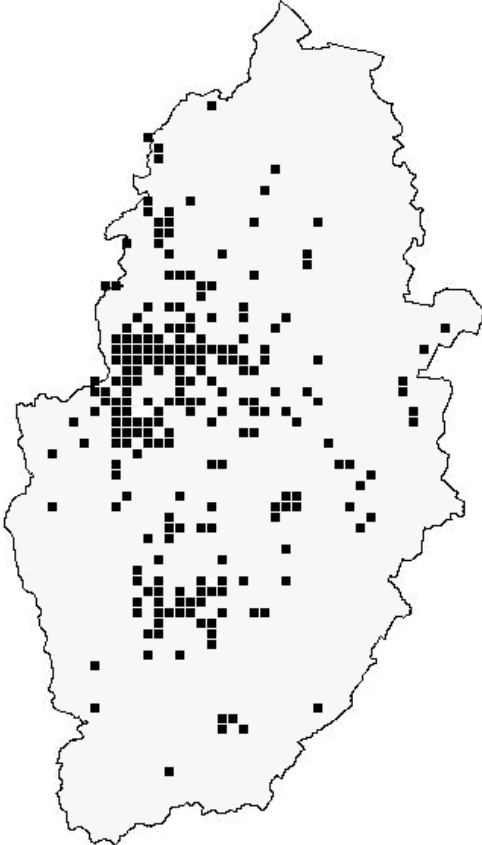
Philoscia muscorum (Scopoli, 1833)



Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii (Brandt, 1833)



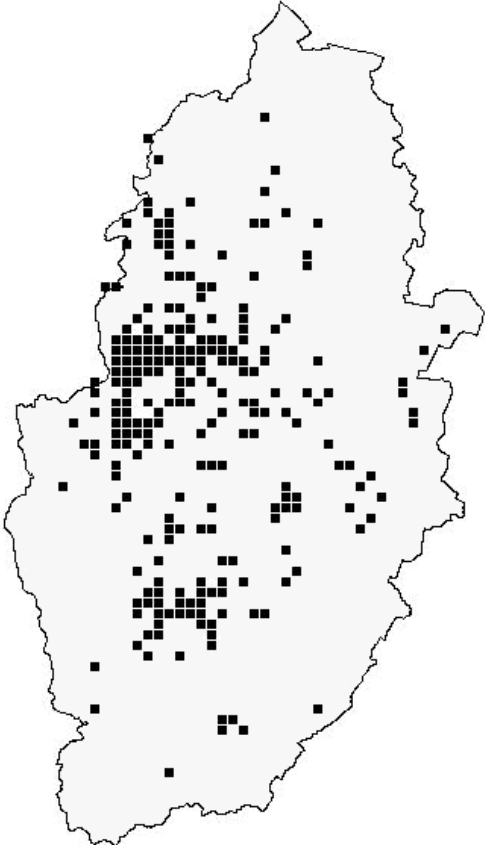
Oniscus asellus ssp. asellus (Linnaeus, 1758)



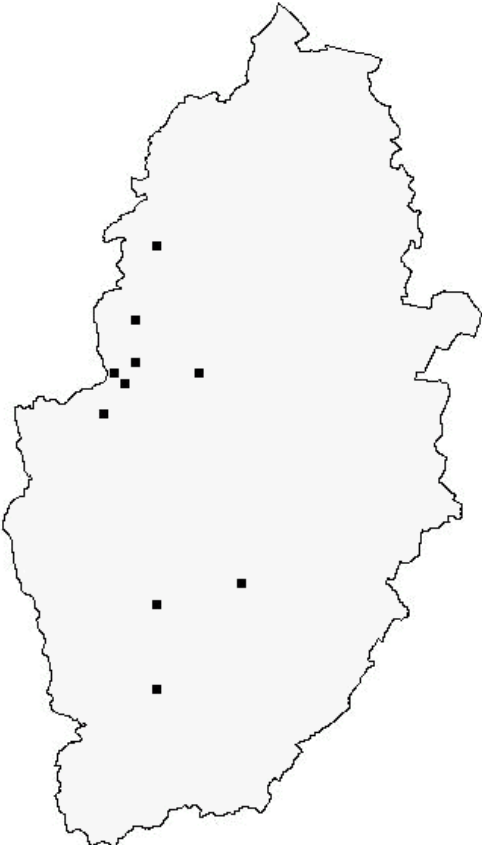
Porcellio dilatatus (Brandt, 1833)



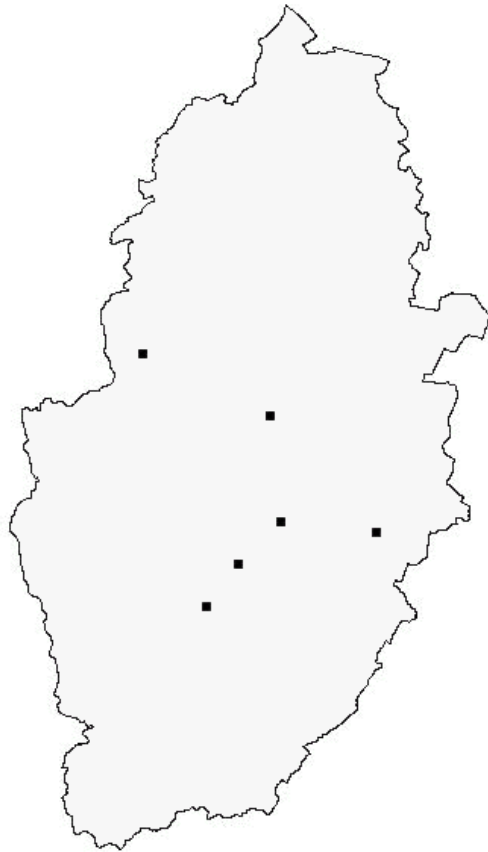
Porcellio scaber (Latreille, 1804)



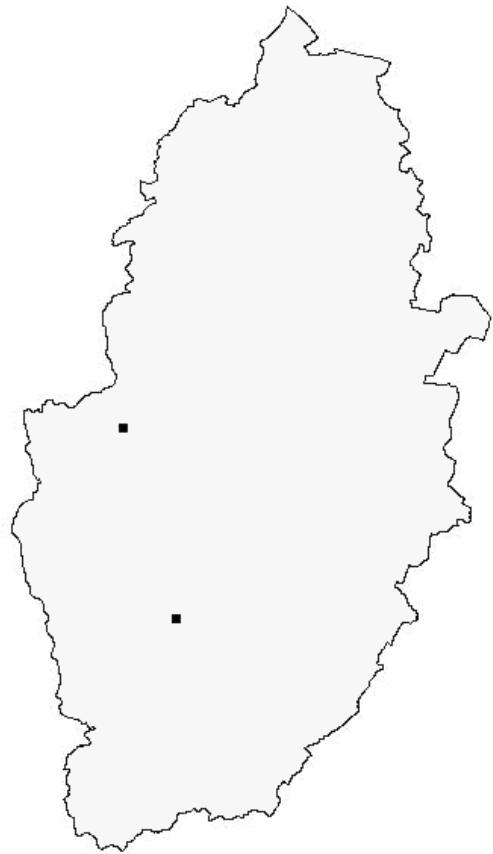
Porcellio spinicornis (Say, 1818)



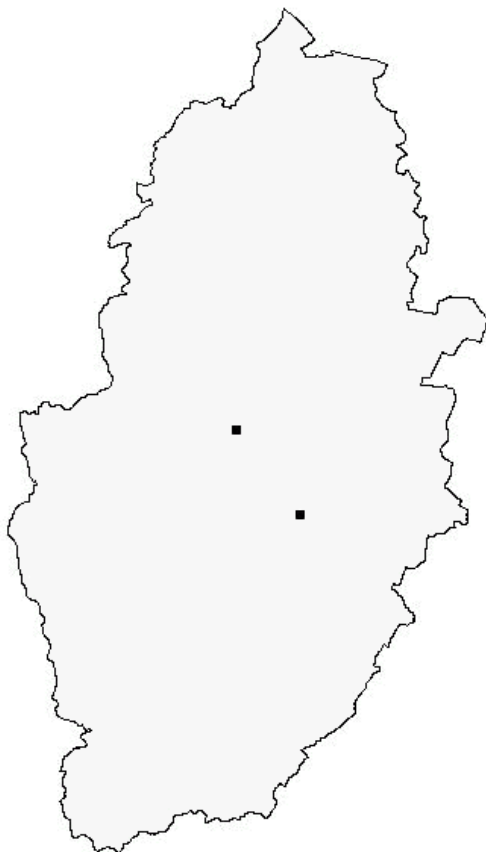
Porcellionides pruinosus (Brandt, 1833)



Armadillidium depressum (Brandt, 1833)



Armadillidium nasatum (Budde-Lund, 1885)



Armadillidium vulgare (Latreille, 1804)

