

A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Centipedes

Fourth revision December 2022



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Introduction

Despite their generally great abundance, centipedes (Chilopoda) continue to be enormously neglected in terms of their identification to species level and study in Nottinghamshire and until relatively recently, there was very little in the way of easily accessible available on any of the county's species.

But thanks to Tony Barber of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group, it is now possible to produce and publish another update (the fourth) to this modern atlas of Nottinghamshire Centipedes. Tony was kind enough to send Dilys and myself all the VC56 records which the British Myriapod and Isopod Group (BMIG) held a number of years ago. They included many of Tony's own records from his time spent living in Bingham, but P.E. Jones also did a great deal of recording in the same area of the county and at around the same time, so their combined records made up much of what we knew about the distribution of centipedes in Nottinghamshire for many years.

The records sent to us by the BMIG, coupled with those of a few other local naturalists and Dilys and myself, means that we now have a much greater understanding of the various species' county range. Most importantly, we now have a continually improving picture of the distribution of those species present in VC56 Nottinghamshire and their status in Nottinghamshire, so we're now probably in a much better position than many other Midland counties.

Centipede distribution does tend to reflect recorder location, so the distribution of some species can be quite patchy and not wholly representative of their true Nottinghamshire distribution. Those maps showing large numbers of records, tend to reveal obvious concentrations of records from the Sherwood Forest and Bingham areas of Nottinghamshire. These are the two areas where most recording has been conducted.

A current checklist of Nottinghamshire Centipedes

It is likely that most species listed as having occurred in Nottinghamshire are still present and widely distributed, its just that few recorders are regularly looking for them.

On a cold, wet day in early March 2013, we brought home a carrier bag of leaf litter and moss collected at Sherwood Forest CP and promptly found Nottinghamshire's first record of *Lithobius muticus*. Keith and Belinda Lugg also recorded Nottinghamshire's first *Cryptops anomalans* from the grounds of Worksop Priory in August 2015, so there is little doubt that new species for the county are waiting to be found, even in suburban localities such as parks, gardens and Churchyards.

The following list is applicable as of December 2022.

HIMANTARIIDAE

Stigmatogaster subterraneus (Shaw, 1789)

SCHENDYLIDAE

Schendyla nemorensis (C.L. Koch, 1837)

LINOTAENIIDAE

Strigamia acuminata (Leach, 1814)

GEOPHILIDAE

Geophilus carpophagus (Leach, 1814)

Geophilus easoni (Arthur *et al.*, 2001)

Geophilus electricus (Linné, 1758)

Geophilus flavus (De Geer, 1778)

Geophilus insculptus (Attems, 1895 & Dagger)

Geophilus truncorum (Bergsoë & Meinert, 1886)

CRYPTOPSIDAE

Cryptops anomalans (Newport, 1844)

Cryptops hortensis (Donovan, 1810)

LITHOBIIDAE

Lithobius calcaratus (C.L. Koch, 1844)

Lithobius curtipes (C.L. Koch, 1847)

Lithobius calcaratus (C.L. Koch, 1844)

Lithobius forficatus (Linné, 1758)

Lithobius melanops (Newport, 1835)

Lithobius microps (Meinert, 1868)

Lithobius muticus (C.L. Koch, 1847)

LITHOBIIDAE (Continued)

Lithobius variegatus (Leach, 1814)

HENICOPIDAE

Lamyctes emarginatus (Newport 1844)

Species accounts

Stigmatogaster subterraneus (Shaw, 1789)

Widespread across much of Nottinghamshire, especially where the soil is soft and friable. It inevitably turns up in gardens, especially during cultivation of the soil and the lifting of plants. It is regularly found underneath rockery stones and logs.

Schendyla nemorensis (C.L. Koch, 1837)

The distribution map might suggest that this species has a distinctly patchy distribution in Nottinghamshire, but like a number of other species to follow, its known distribution suffers from recorder bias. It was regularly recorded from the Bingham area in the late 1960's and 1970's (Jones, P.E.), while two records from Market Warsop in 2014 and 2017, still represent the county's most northerly records to date, but it has continued to be found at a number of sites local to Market Warsop, suggesting that it must surely be more widespread in general across Nottinghamshire.

Two records away from the Market Warsop and Bingham areas relate to specimens found at Mapperley in 2014 and Lambley Cemetery in 2020.

Strigamia acuminata (Leach, 1814)

Continues to be a somewhat uncommon centipede in Nottinghamshire. Most records are from the south-east of of the county around Bingham, but there is a record from Eaton Wood near Retford in 2013 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T) and it was a surprise find in an area of Beech woodland at Holborn Hill Plantation in 2020 (Pendleton, T.A.).

Geophilus carpophagus (Leach, 1814)

Geophilus carpophagus tends to favour more urban (synanthropic) locations, where it can be found underneath loose mortar and brickwork on the walls of buildings etc. Likely to be quite widespread in Nottinghamshire, but there are just two confirmed county records. The first of these came from the walls of Sookholme Church in April 2015 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T) and the other from underneath the bark of a section of felled trunk being used to block access to a field near Kirton in May 2016 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T). Both records were confirmed by microscopic examination.

Geophilus easoni

(Arthur et al., 2001)



Geophilus easoni (Arthur et al., 2001)

Widespread and often common at many lowland heath and woodland sites in central Nottinghamshire. We have no records from urban locations, but it is the commonest Geophilid throughout the Sherwood Forest area, where the soil is light and sandy.

Nottinghamshire records range from Clumber Park and both Treswell and Gamston Woods near Retford in the north, to as far south as Oxtun Bogs and Watchwood, which both lie outside Calverton and just north of Nottingham. The distribution of *Geophilus easoni* should be expected to go as far south as Bulwell and all sites lying on light sandy soils.

Geophilus electricus (Linné, 1758)

For many years, Nottinghamshire's only record was from Bingham in 1968 (Jones, P.E.) but it was recorded more recently from Attenborough NR in November 2016 (Sexton, T.).

Geophilus flavus (De Geer, 1778)

Formerly most common in the south-east of the county, with records from Newark in 1969 and 1970 (Jones, P.E.). More recent recording work has turned up many more records from the wider Sherwood Forest area, Kirton Wood and Wellow Park areas, but it has proved to be more common than previously thought. *Geophilus flavus* is obviously found county wide, especially in parts (or all?) of the Trent Valley. One recorded from Gringley Carr in 2021, is currently the most northerly county record.

Geophilus insculptus (Attems, 1895 & Dagger)

Common and found in a wide variety of habitats. Well recorded from many sites for this species being reported from the Bingham and Trent Valley areas during the late 1960's and early 1970's and now proving to be more widely distributed than previously thought, being found on former Colliery sites and heathland sites in the Sherwood Forest area.

Geophilus truncorum (Bergsoë & Meinert, 1886)

A small centipede which is common and widespread. Most often recorded in a variety of generally wooded locations running north of Nottingham towards the Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park areas. Most of the known records are from sites lying on sandy soils, but there are a number of records from the Trent Valley near Nottingham and Newark.

Cryptops anomalans (Newport, 1844)

A single specimen found in the grounds of Worksop Priory on 22/08/15 (Lugg, K. and Lugg, B.) represented the first Nottinghamshire record. A number of other records have followed, all of these involving single specimens found underneath stones lying close to the base of the Priory walls on 17/06/16, 12/07/18 and 24/06/21 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

There was an additional record from 'The Canch' Park and found underneath a stone at the top of a small ornamental retaining wall, directly across the road from Worksop Priory on 14/10/20, but it has yet to be found elsewhere in Nottinghamshire.

Cryptops hortensis (Donovan, 1810)

Increased recording has shown *Cryptops hortensis* to be common and widespread across much of Nottinghamshire. It can be found under stones, logs and other debris depending on habitat, but it is frequent on brownfield sites and in suburban gardens, but is known from many woodland sites.

Lithobius calcaratus (C.L. Koch, 1844)

Recent records have come from heathland sites in the Sherwood Forest area, including Clipstone Old Quarter, Sherwood Heath SSSI near Ollerton and Strawberry Hill Heath near Mansfield (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.). It can occasionally be seen on paths, but most records have come via grubbing through plant/heather litter underneath stands of heather. An increase in records since 2020.

There is a 1983 record from Bunny Old Wood in the south of the county, which seems uncharacteristic habitat for this species.

Lithobius curtipes (C.L. Koch, 1847)

Must be considered to be rare in Nottinghamshire, based on the lack of records. It was never recorded by Barber or Jones in the late 1960's and early 1970's, but there is a single record from Bunny Old Wood dated 1983, although the recorder is unknown. Must be considered to be overlooked in the county.

Lithobius crassipes (L. Koch, 1862)

Probably much more common and widespread than the distribution map suggests. Well recorded from the Bingham area of south-east Nottinghamshire in the late 1960's and early 1970's (Barber, A. and Jones, P.E.) but now found to be frequent in the Mansfield and Sherwood Forest areas, which currently mark this centipede's northernmost limit of Nottinghamshire range.

Lithobius forficatus (Linné, 1758)

The most widespread of all the *Lithobius* Centipedes in Nottinghamshire. There are obvious concentrations of records from the Bingham and Sherwood Forest areas of the county, which have seen most recording. This is the large reddish centipede which is frequently found in urban gardens.

Lithobius melanops (Newport, 1835)

Appears to be quite uncommon in Nottinghamshire, with a band of records running south-east to north-west across the county, but this species no doubt suffers considerably from under-recording. *Lithobius microps* is a relatively small centipede, so unless large numbers of likely specimens around the 17mm size range are taken for close examination, there are unlikely to be many additional records forthcoming in the future.

Lithobius microps (Meinert, 1868)

Once known only from the south of the county, but with regular recording, *Lithobius microps* has turned out to be more widespread than had been previously thought. Nationally, this is a common *Lithobius*, small and often found in urban locations.

Lithobius muticus (C.L. Koch, 1847)

Rare and still largely restricted to heathland areas of Nottinghamshire. The first county records came from grass tussock samples taken from Budby South Forest and Sherwood Forest CP in early 2013 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T) but in 2020, one was found in a leaf litter sample taken from a small area of grassland and Beech trees near Cuckney on 27/04/20 (Pendleton, T.A.).

Lithobius variegatus (Leach, 1814)

Not as common as the more familiar *Lithobius forficatus*, but there have been numerous records in recent years. Records are predominantly from woodlands lying on sandy soil, where it can be found under logs etc.

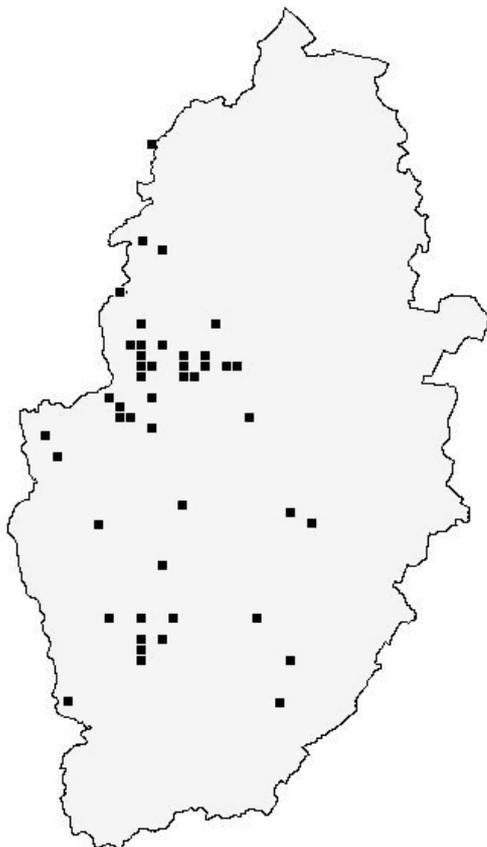
Lamyctes emarginatus (Newport 1844)

The only Nottinghamshire records are from Bingham in 1968 (Jones, P.E.) and Ploughman's Wood near Lambley on 24/09/98 (Kirby, P.).

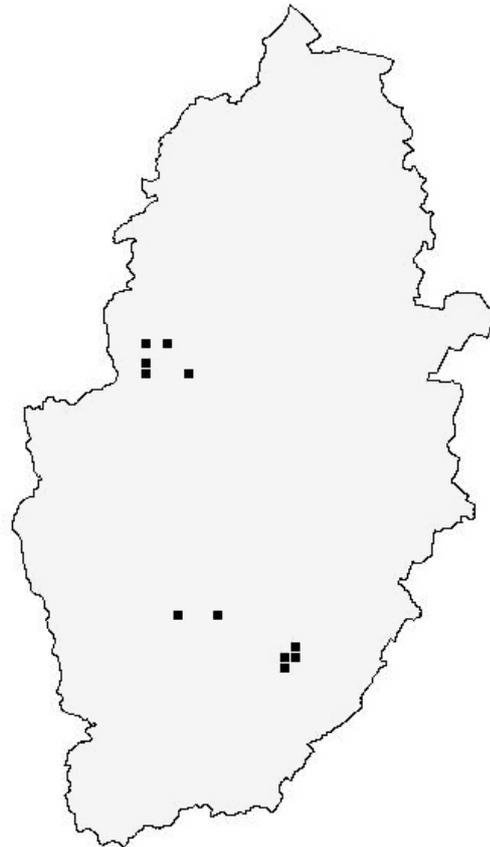
Species distribution maps

The following distribution maps are the latest available and taken from the website www.eakingbirds.com and which were updated at the beginning of December 2022. In the majority of cases, the maps are now considerably more expansive than those published in the very first edition of this county atlas back in April 2015 and the following updates. Work continues to update the maps with new records from around the county, so always check for updates by visiting <http://www.eakingbirds.com/eakingbirds4/photogallerythumbsmillipedes.htm> then scrolling down to find the species you want.

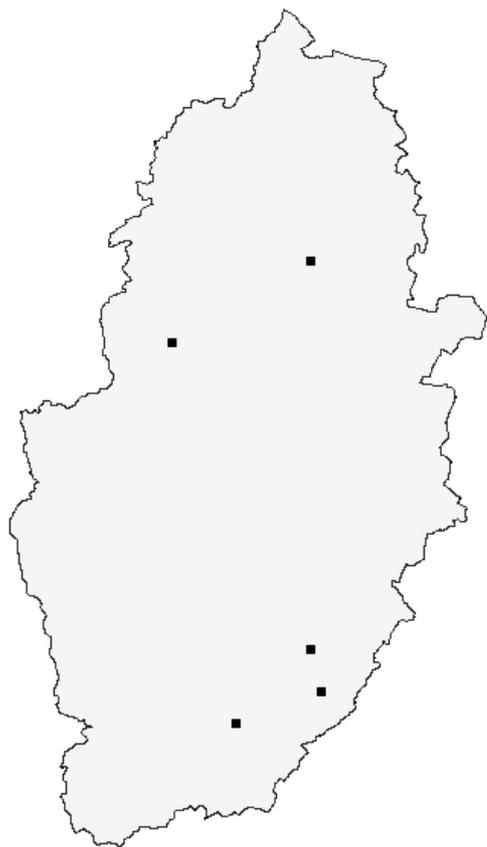
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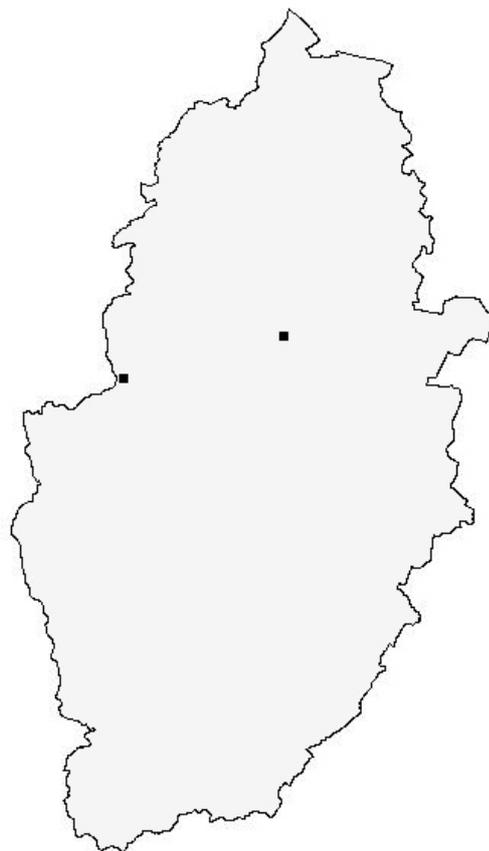
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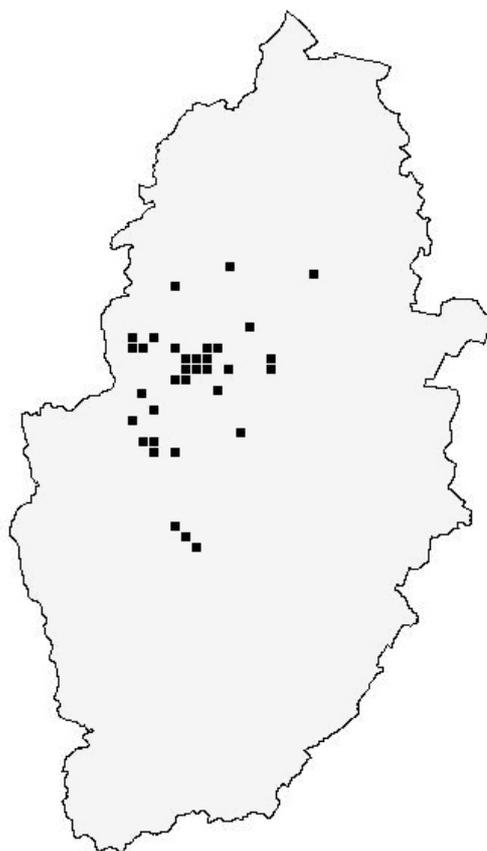
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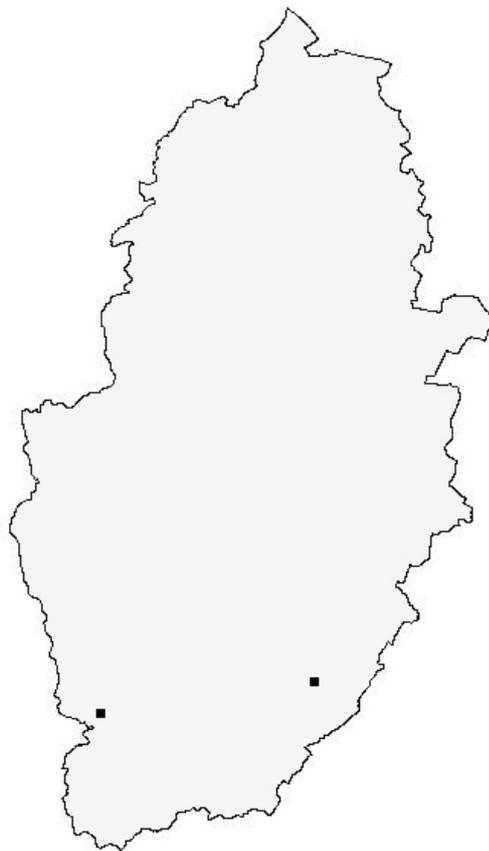
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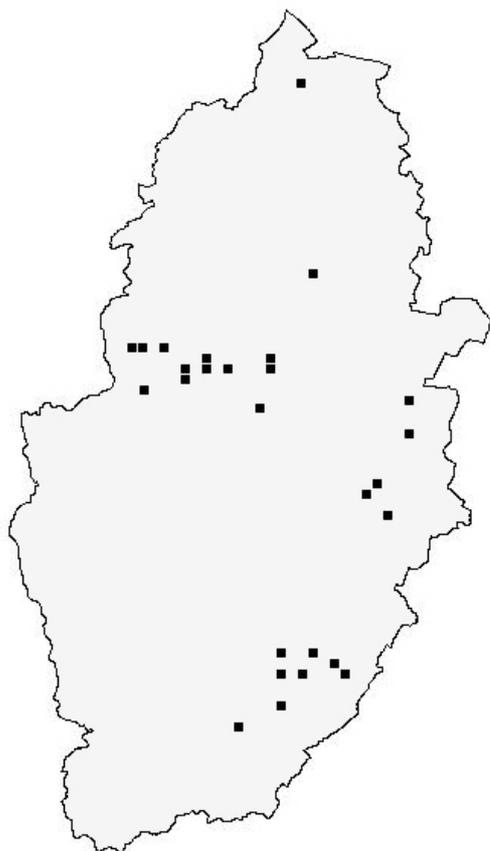
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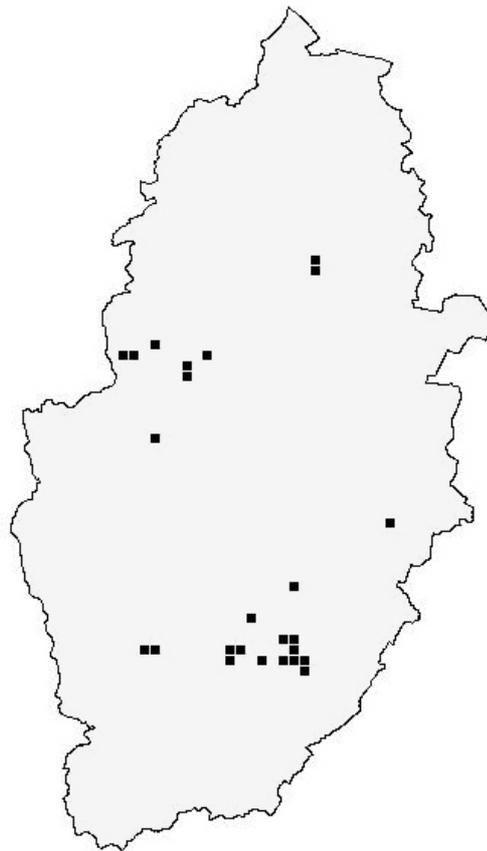
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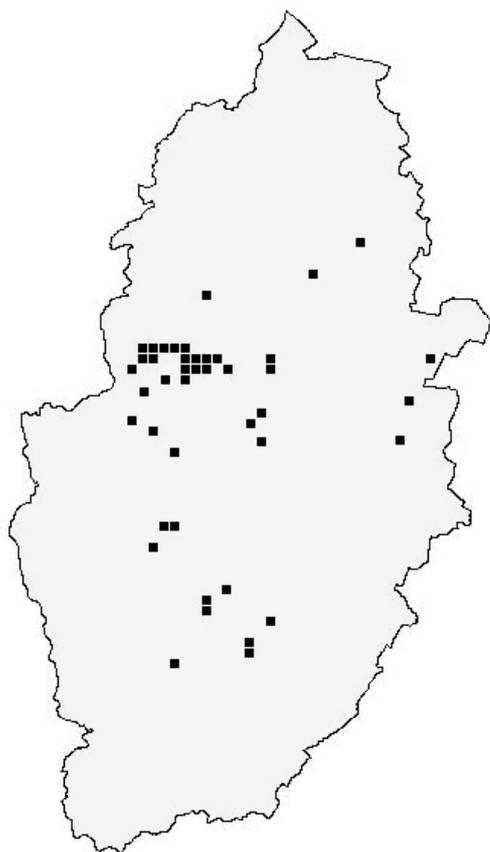
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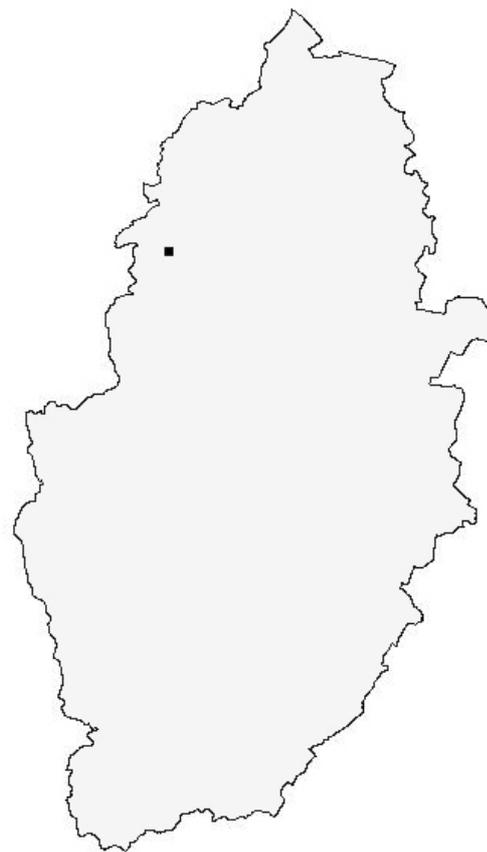
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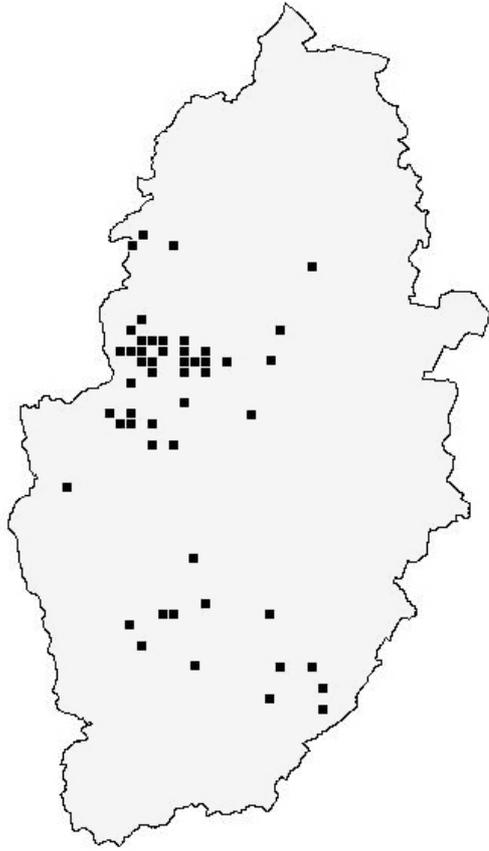
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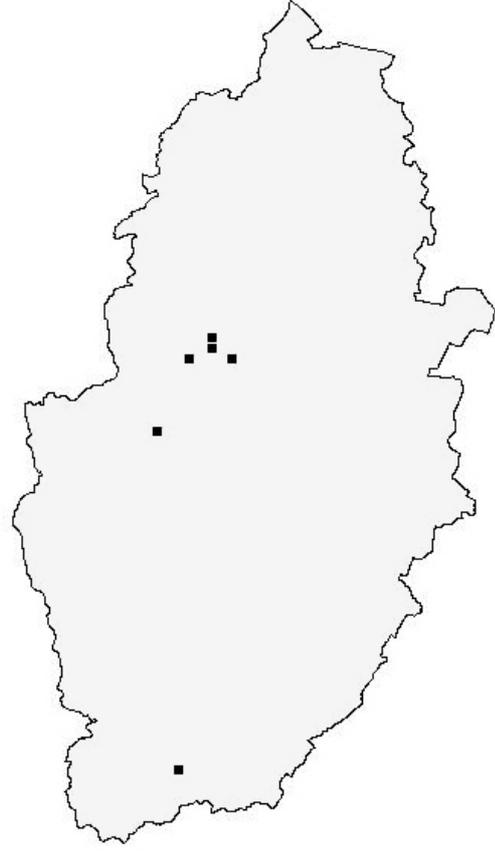
Cryptops anomalans



Cryptops hortensis



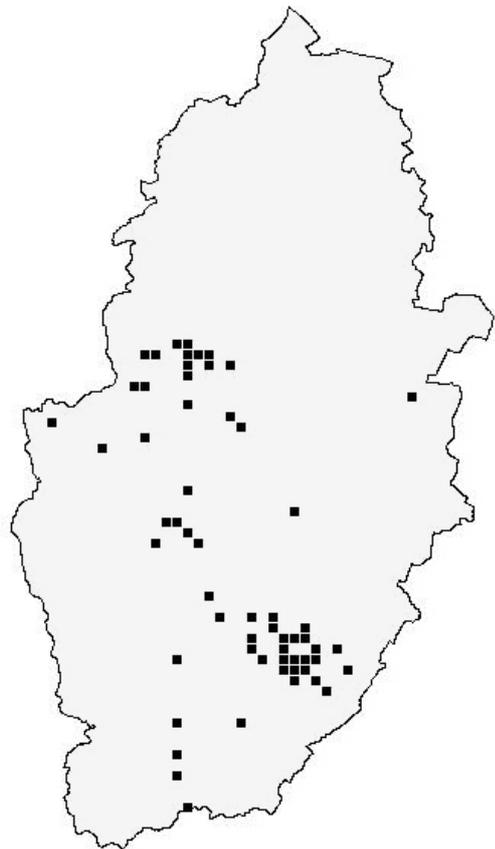
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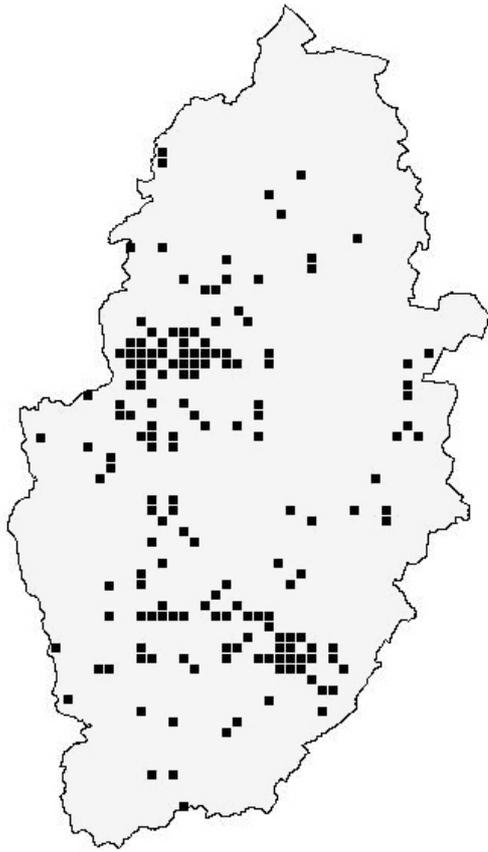
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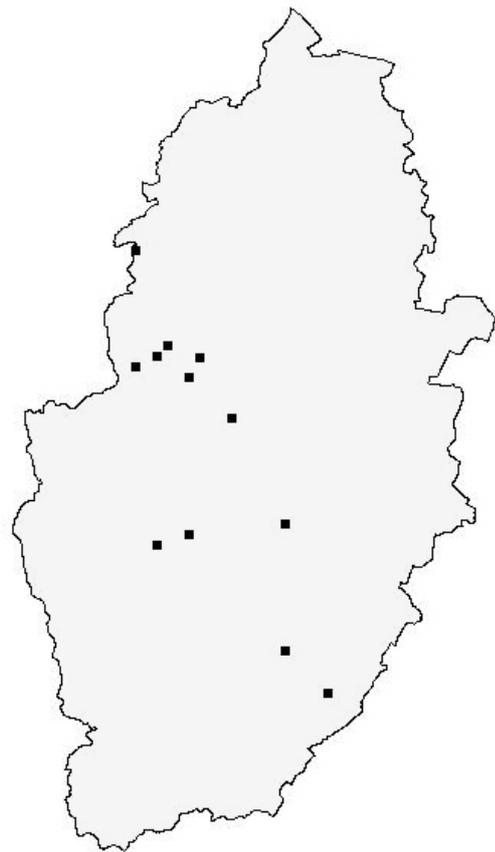
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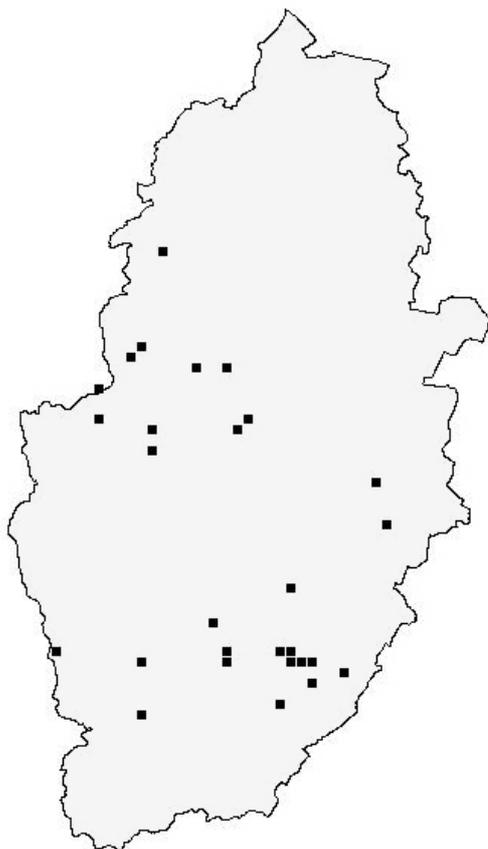
Lithobius forficatus



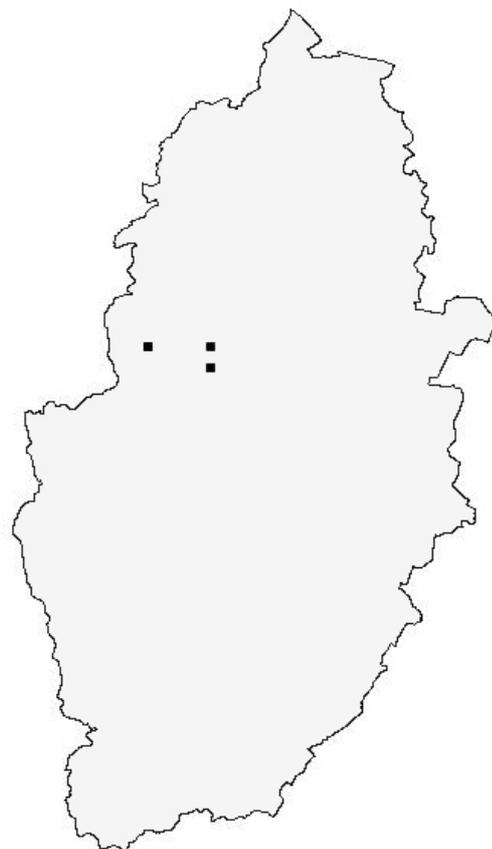
Lithobius melanops



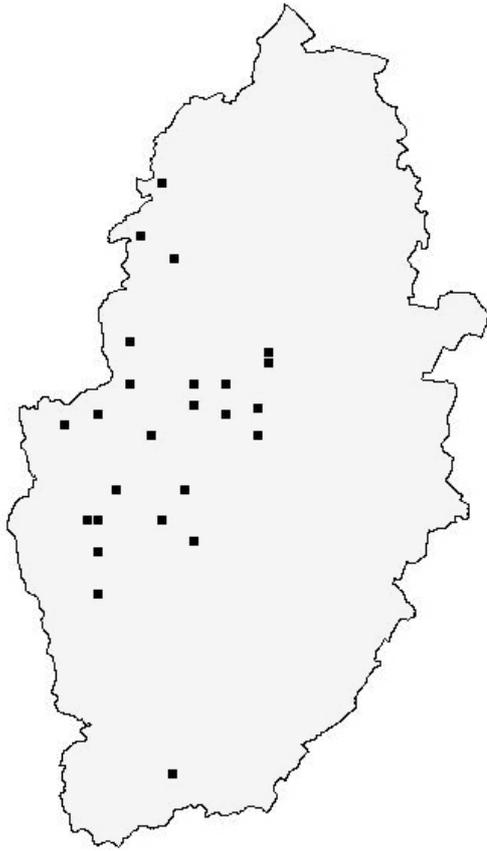
Lithobius microps



Lithobius muticus



Lithobius variegatus



Lamyctes emarginatus

