

A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes

Trevor and Dilys Pendleton



Introduction

This modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes, follows the same format as used in our January 2015 publication 'A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Centipedes'.

Despite their great abundance, Millipedes (Diploda) have remained largely neglected in terms of their identification and study in Nottinghamshire and until only recently, very little information was available regarding the county's species, or their distribution.

But thanks again to Tony Barber of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group (who also sent us the BMIG's Centipede records for VC56) it is now possible for us to produce and publish a long overdue modern atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes.

Most of the records in the BMIG's database, are Tony's own records, or those of R.E. Jones. Both recorded Millipedes in the Bingham area of the county in the late 1960's and early 1970's, although Tony also recorded Millipedes from a number of other Nottinghamshire locations.

Records sent to us by the BMIG, coupled with our own (Trevor and Dilys Pendleton) records from the Mansfield and Sherwood Forest area over the past few years, now means that we actually have a more realistic picture of species distribution and status within Nottinghamshire. The distribution of Millipedes does tend to reflect recorder location, so the distribution of many species may seem to be quite patchy.

Nottinghamshire records of *Polyxenus lagurus*

There appear to be no modern Nottinghamshire records of *Polyxenus lagurus*, more commonly known as the Bristly Millipede. J.W. Carr in his book "*The Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire*" published in 1916, does provide some information on *P. lagurus*, citing records from Beeston, South Leverton (Thornley) Cottam and Worksop. Carr quotes it as being "found in old quarries, usually found beneath loose bark of old paling or dead tree trunks". *P. lagurus* should be easier to find in Nottinghamshire, than the lack of modern records would suggest.

In the Leicestershire and Rutland Millipede Atlas (Daws & Ikin 2010) it was found to occur in 45 tetrads within the two counties. More recent studies have discovered that *P. lagurus* is regularly found on the walls of Churches, occurring on 91 of the 226 Leicestershire churches visited (Ikin, H. & Woodward, S. 2014).

References:

Ikin, H. & Woodward, S. '*The Ecclesiastical Millipede*' Leicester Entomological Society, Newsletter 51, September 2014.
Daws, J. & Ikin, H. (2010). *The Millipedes of Leicestershire and Rutland*, LESOPS 22.

Both these publications are available via <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/content/leicestershire-entomological-society>

Nottinghamshire species

Glomeris marginata, *Nanogona polydesmoides*, *Brachydesmus superus*, *Polydesmus angustus*, *Polydesmus coriaceus*, *Polydesmus inconstans*, *Ophiodesmus albonanus*, *Proteroiulus fuscus*, *Blaniulus guttulatus*, *Archiboreoiulus pallidus*, *Nemasoma varicorne*, *Julus scandinavicus*, *Ophiulus pilosus*, *Cylindroiulus britannicus*, *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus*, *Cylindroiulus punctatus*, *Brachyiulus pusillus*, *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* and *Tachypodoiulus niger*.

Some Millipedes do have well used common names, which we have listed here.

Polyxenus lagurus **Bristly Millipede**, *Blaniulus guttulatus* **Spotted Snake Millipede**, *Proteroiulus fuscus* **Snake Millipede**, *Cylindroiulus punctatus* **Blunt-tailed Snake Millipede**, *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* **Striped Millipede**, *Tachypodoiulus niger* **White-legged Snake Millipede** and *Polydesmus angustus* **Flat-backed Millipede**.

Glomeris marginata (Villers, 1789)

Widespread and common, especially within woodland lying on Sherwood Sandstone, where it can be found under logs. Most records are from sites well north of Nottingham, in the Mansfield and Sherwood Forest areas and extending towards Retford, but there are records from around Bunny in south Nottinghamshire.

Nanogona polydesmoides (Leach, 1814)

Possibly more widespread than the current distribution map would suggest. This Millipede has been well recorded from around Bingham, but only recently found in Sherwood Forest and at Lound Wood at Eaking.

Brachydesmus superus (Latzel, 1884)

Common, with most Nottinghamshire records coming from the Bingham area, but also recorded from Colwick Woods in 1969 (Jones, R.E.). In the north of the county, this Millipede has been infrequently recorded, but there are records from Treswell Wood, Lound Wood, Sherwood Forest CP and Kirton Wood.

Polydesmus angustus (Latzel, 1884)

The most common and widespread of all the *Polydesmus* Millipedes recorded in Nottinghamshire, which are all visually identical and needing microscopic examination to correctly determine identification.

Polydesmus coriaceus (Porat, 1871)

Currently just a single Nottinghamshire record, from Bunny Old Wood (recorder unknown). Examination of any *Polydesmus sp.* may prove that this species is more common.

Polydesmus inconstans (Latzel, 1884)

Presently confined to a series of scattered records from south and east Nottinghamshire. Examination of any *Polydesmus sp.* may prove that this species is more common.

Ophiodesmus albonanus (Latzel, 1895)

Rare in Nottinghamshire and the only known records are from Bingham in 1969 (Jones, R.E. and Barber, A.)

Proteroiulus fuscus (Am Stein, 1857)

A very common Millipede which is widespread in Nottinghamshire, especially in the Sherwood Forest area. It is usually found under bark in wooded areas, but is not restricted to such habitat.

Blaniulus guttulatus (Fabricius, 1798)

Widespread in woodland, but also found in other habitats, including suburban gardens. There are scattered records from Newark, Bingham, Bunny Old Wood and from The Meadows area of Nottingham (Barber, A.) and it is generally common at Sherwood Forest. There are several similar species which can cause identification difficulties.

Archiboreoiulus pallidus (Brade-Birks, 1920)

A species found only in the south-east of Nottinghamshire. All the county's records have come from Bingham (where it was widely recorded) but there are Trent Valley records from Shelford and Radcliffe-on-Trent (Jones, R.E.) in 1969.

Nemasoma varicorne (C.L.Koch, 1847)

Rare, with three Nottinghamshire records from Whatton and Radcliffe-on-Trent in 1969 (Jones, R.E.) and at Sherwood Forest in 1970 (Jones, R.E.).

Julus scandinavius (Latzel, 1884)

Currently very rare on the basis of just two Nottinghamshire records, both from the south of the county. Recorded from Oxtan Bog in 1970 (Barber, A.) and most recently from Wilwell Farm Cutting in 1983 (Terrell-Nield, C.)

Ophiulus pilosus (Newport, 1842)

A common Millipede of south Nottinghamshire. Recently found at Attenborough NR (Sexton, T.) but many records came from the Trent Valley in the late 1960's and early 1970's (Jones, R.E. and Barber, A.)

Cylindroiulus britannicus (Verhoeff, 1891)

Not recorded in Nottinghamshire until as recently as 2014, when it was found near Market Warsop and Rainworth Heath (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.)

Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus (Wood, 1864)

Recorded from numerous sites, including Newstead Abbey, Sherwood Forest, Gamston Wood and Bevercotes Pit Wood, all in north-west Nottinghamshire.

Cylindroiulus punctatus (Leach, 1815)

Very common and widespread. Probably found throughout Nottinghamshire and in a wide range of habitats. Is also recorded from suburban gardens, where it can be found under logs etc. Well recorded from Sherwood Forest and the Bingham/Trent Valley area.

Brachyiulus pusillus (Leach, 1815)

Just four county records suggest that this Millipede is uncommon, but probably quite widespread in range throughout much of Nottinghamshire. Recent records have come from Hills and Holes SSSI at Market Warsop and Stoke Bardolph in 2014 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) Moorbridge Pond NR in 2001 (Kirby, P.) and Newark in 1969 (Jones, R.E.)

Ommatoiulus sabulosus (Linnaeus, 1758)

A large and easy to identify Millipede. It is very common in the Sherwood Forest area, but has also been recorded from several sites in the south of Nottinghamshire. These include Attenborough NR in 2009 (Rogers, R.) Netherfield Ash Lagoons in 2012 (Netherfield Wildlife Group) Ruddington in 1969 (Jones, R.E.)

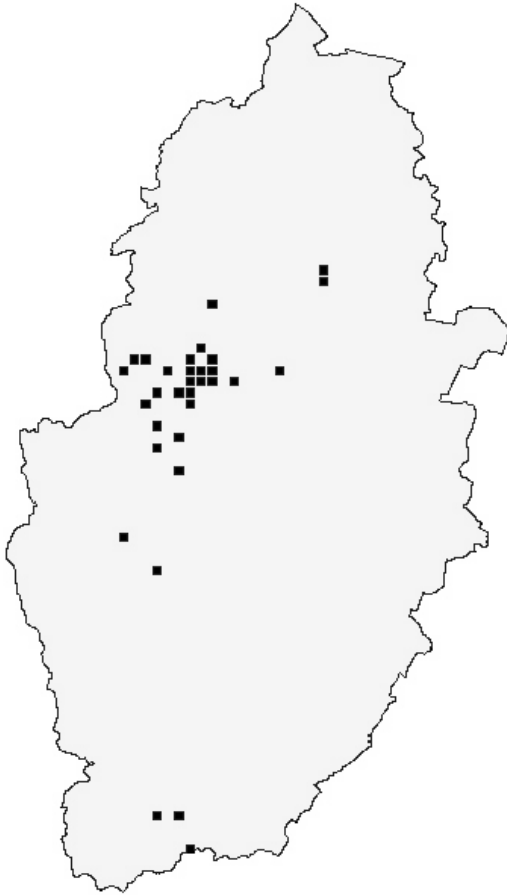
Tachypodoiulus niger (Leach, 1814)

This is probably the most widespread Nottinghamshire Millipede and found in all habitat types. Very well recorded in both Sherwood Forest and Bingham areas of the county, but will occur anywhere under logs and stones etc.

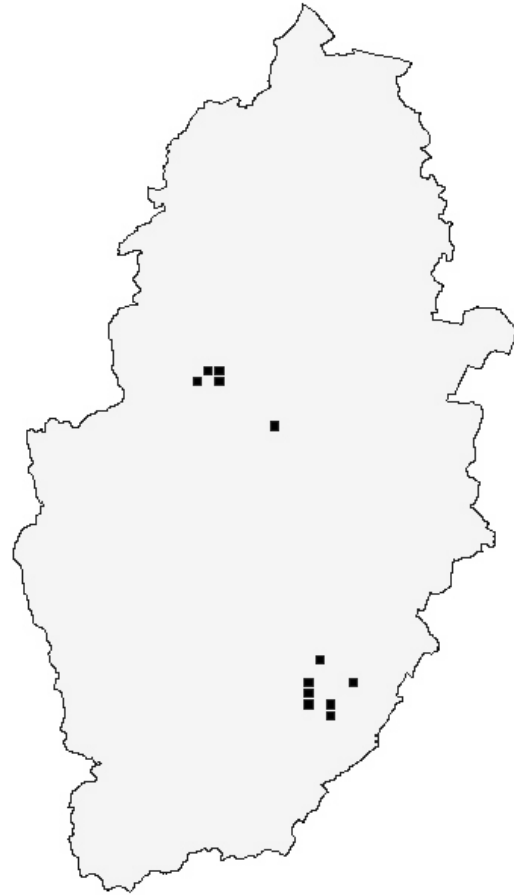
The Nottinghamshire distribution maps

The distribution maps are largely built from the records of Tony Barber, R.E. Jones and ourselves (Trevor and Dilys Pendleton). We have avoided using historical records sourced from J.W. Carr's book "*The Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire*", feeling that a modern atlas is more representative of the current distribution of our Millipede fauna and far more useful.

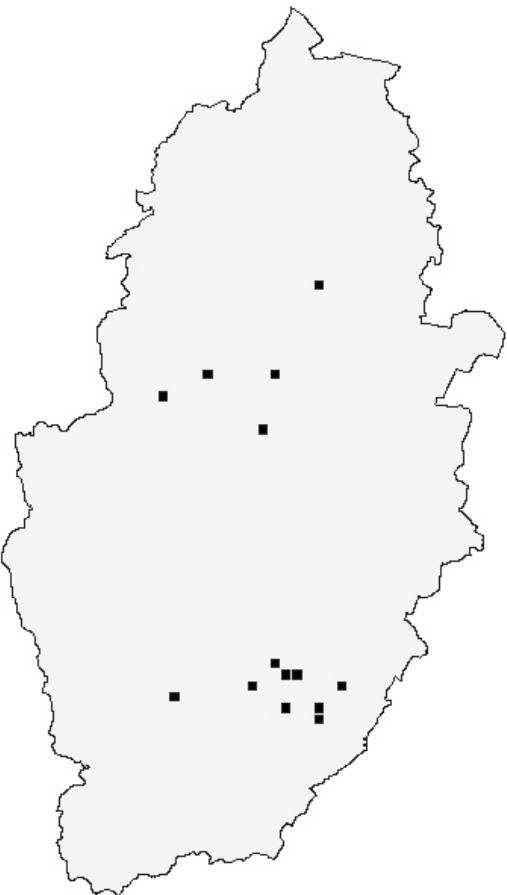
Glomeris marginata



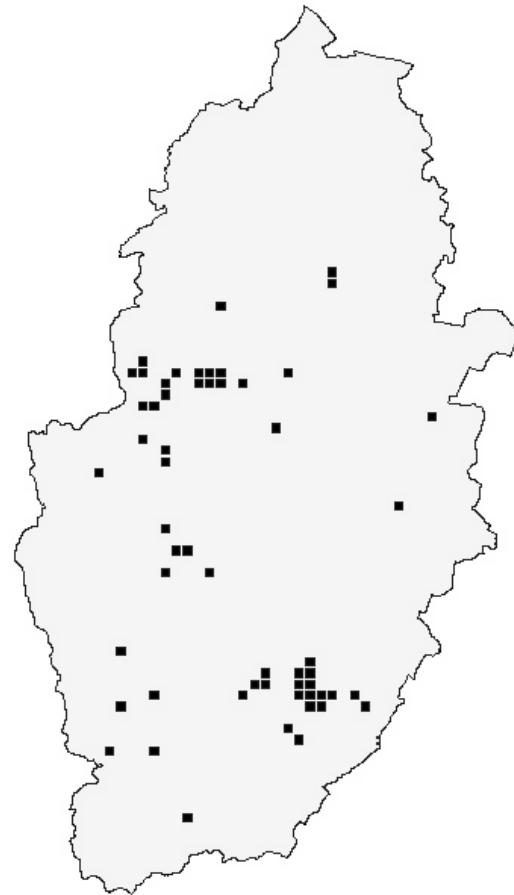
Nanogona polydesmoides



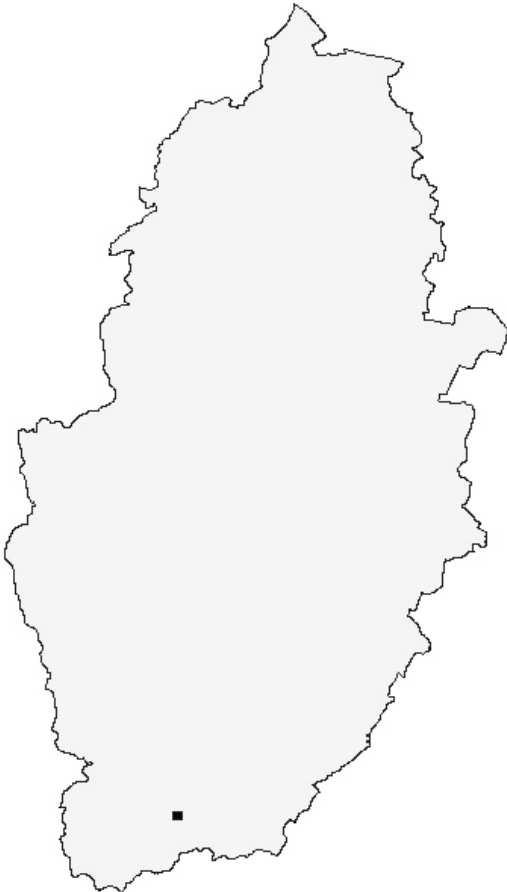
Brachydesmus superus



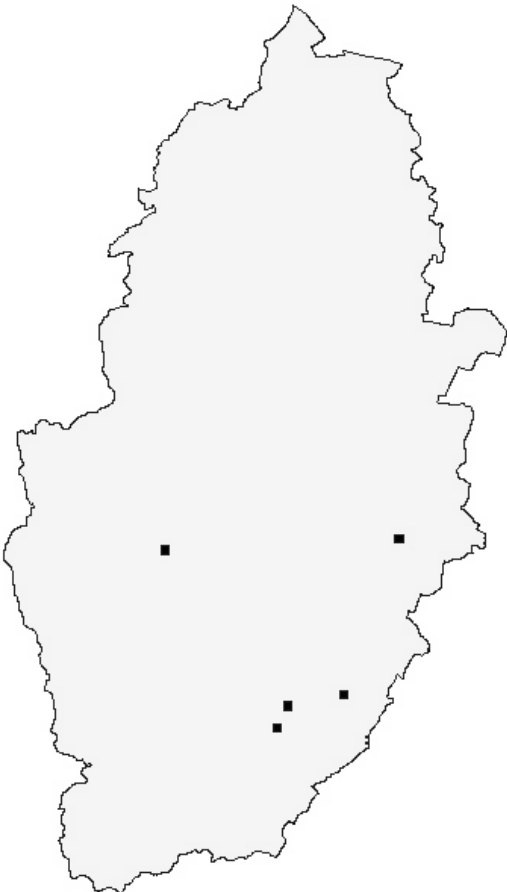
Polydesmus angustus



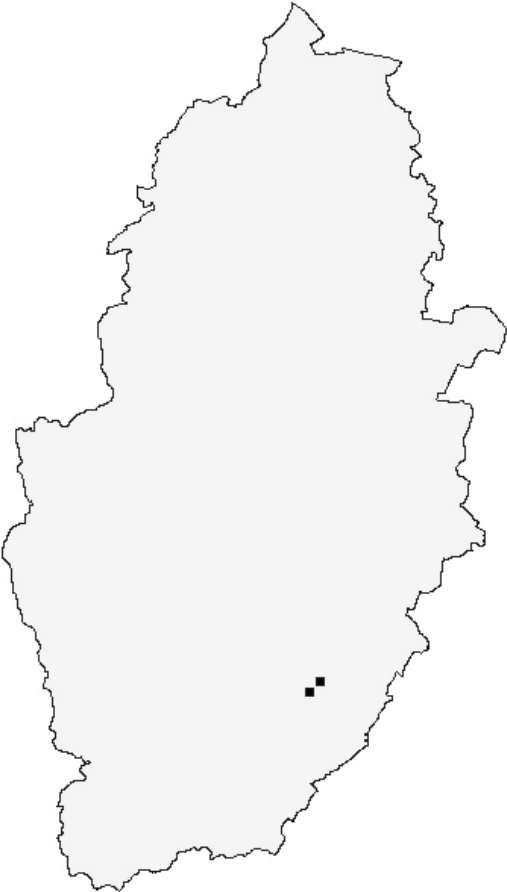
Polydesmus coriaceus



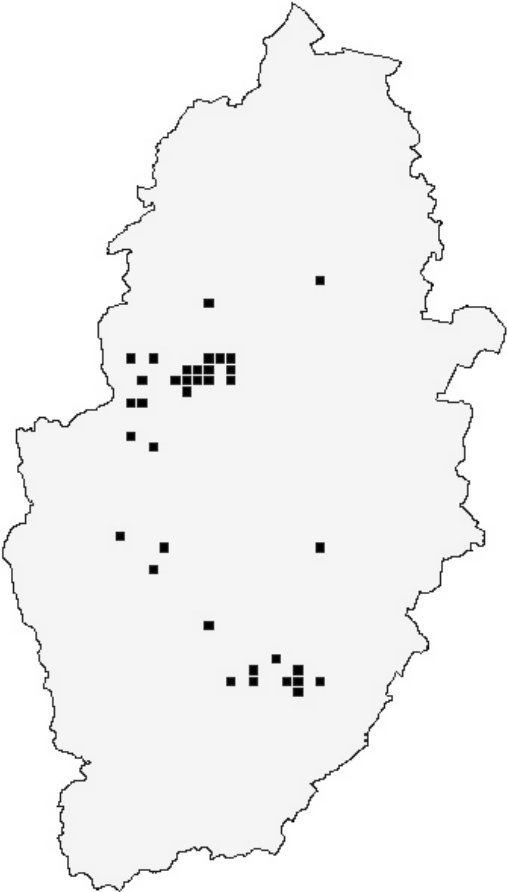
Polydesmus inconstans



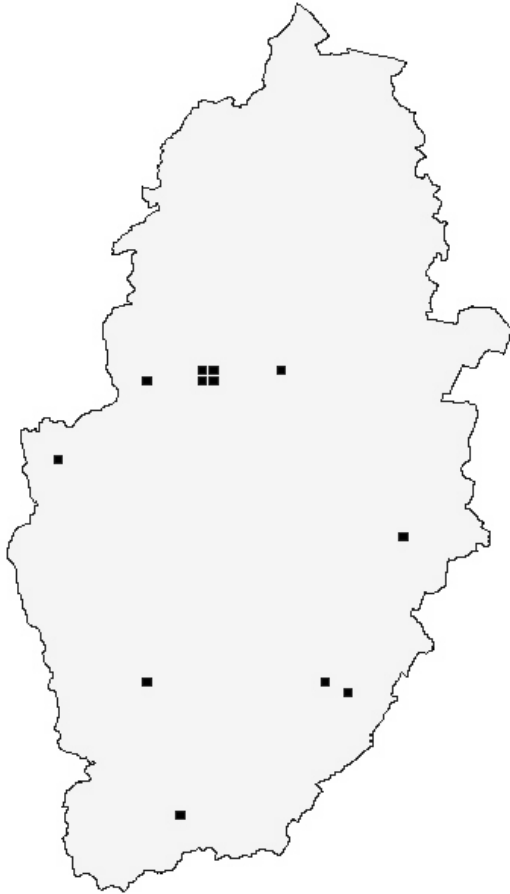
Ophiodesmus albonanus



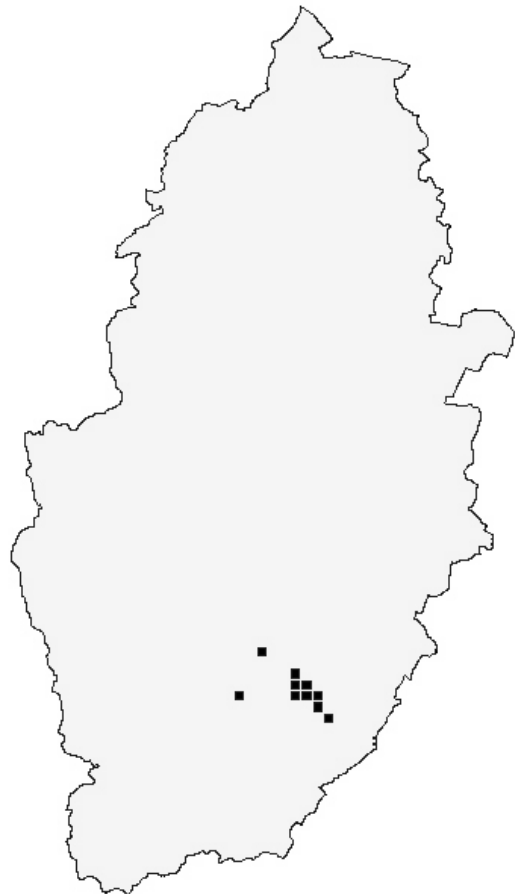
Proteroiulus fuscus



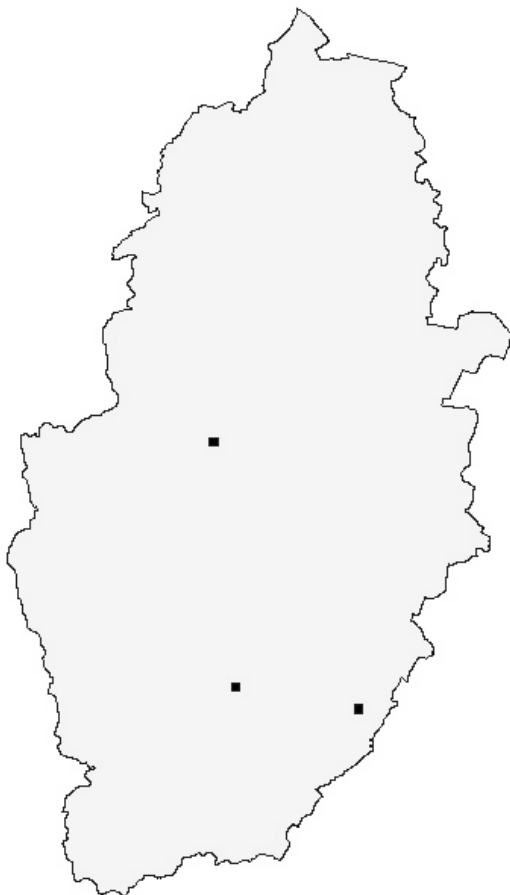
Blaniulus guttulatus



Archiboreoiulus pallidus



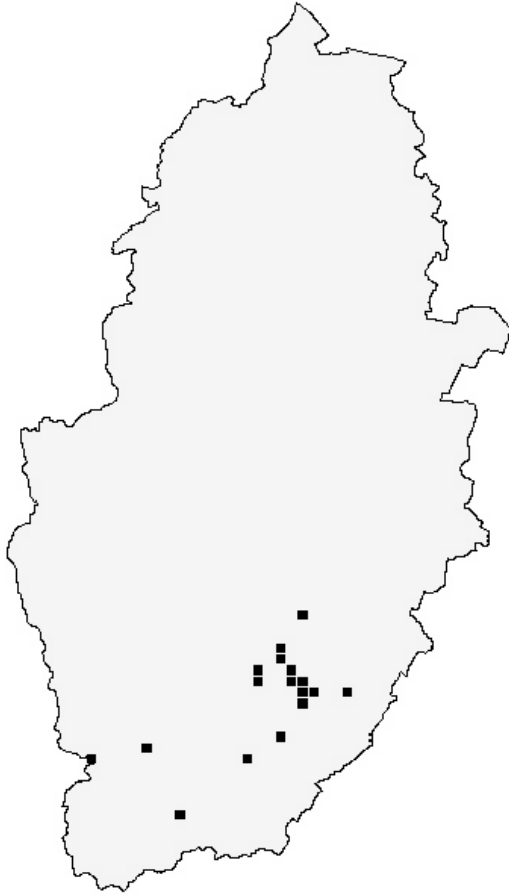
Nemasoma varicorne



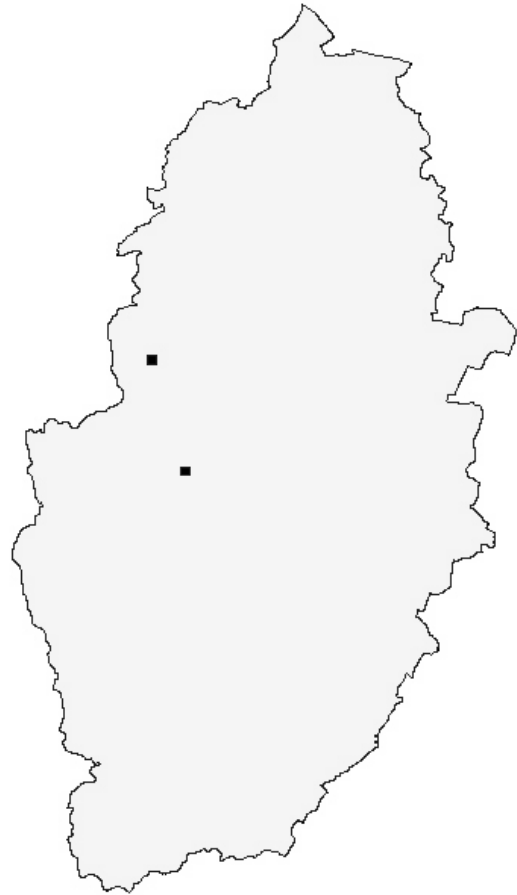
Julus scandinavicus



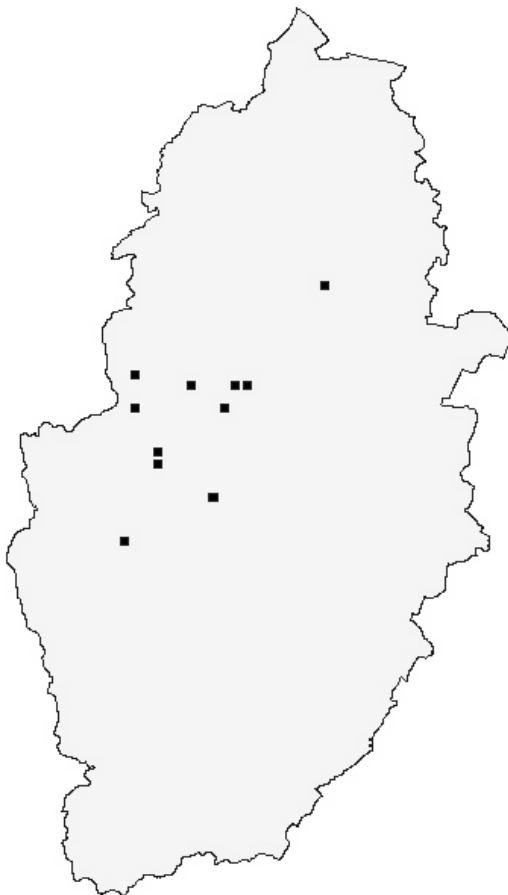
Ophiulus pilosus



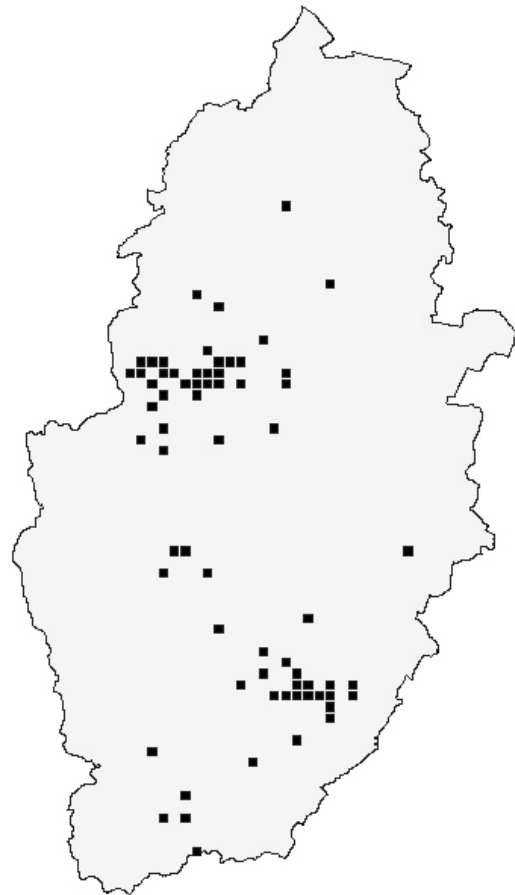
Cylindroiulus britannicus



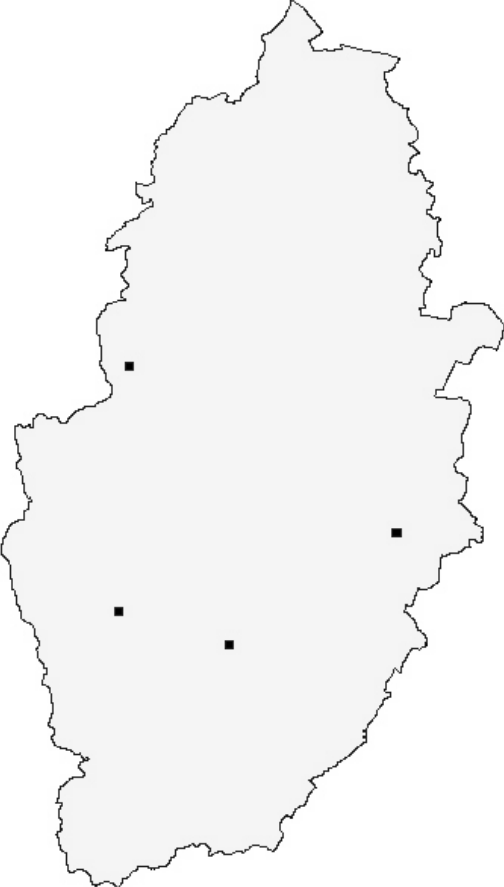
Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus



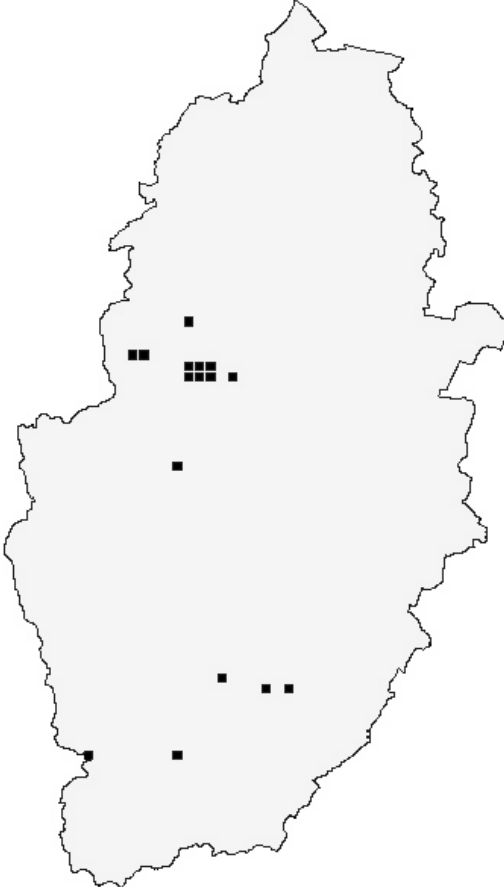
Cylindroiulus punctatus



Brachyiulus pusillus



Ommatoiulus sabulosus



Tachypodoiulus niger

