

# **A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes**

**Fourth revision    December 2022**



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## Introduction

This fourth revision of 'a modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes' once again follows the same format as used in each of this publication's previous edition. But as maybe expected, this revision does contain a number of important updates including a couple of new species recorded new to Nottinghamshire since the last update, although visitors to the [www.eakringbirds.com](http://www.eakringbirds.com) website may already be aware of these additions to the county's millipede fauna.

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

But after Tony Barber of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group sent Dilys and myself the BMIG's Centipede and Millipede records for VC56 (Nottinghamshire) some years ago, it became possible for us to produce and publish a long overdue modern atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes and then to produce regular updates on an 'as and when' basis. And as it's over four years since the last update, this publication is somewhat overdue.

At the time of those records being sent to us, most of the Nottinghamshire records in the BMIG's database were Tony's own records, or those of P.E. Jones. Both recorded millipedes in the Bingham area of the county in the late 1960's and early 1970's, but Tony occasionally recorded from a number of other Nottinghamshire locations.

Records sent to us by the BMIG and a small group of local naturalists, coupled with our own records from the Mansfield and Sherwood Forest area over the past few years, now means that we are actually developing a more realistic picture of species distribution within Nottinghamshire. However, the distribution of Millipedes does still tend to reflect recorder location, so the distribution of many species may seem to be quite patchy.

## Millipedes recently recorded as being new to Nottinghamshire

Following on from the increased interest in Nottinghamshire Millipedes, a number of new species (and one confirmed species) have been added to the county list in the last few years.

Millipedes recently recorded new to VC56 (Nottinghamshire) include *Chordeuma proximum*, *Choneiulus palmatus* and *Boreoiulus tenuis* in 2015, *Macrosternodesmus pallicola* in 2016, *Melogona scutellaris* in 2017, *Leptoiulus belgicus* and *Brachychaeteuma bagnalli* in 2018 - the last three species all coming from a suburban Mapperley garden and *Cylindroiulus truncorum* from a Worksop garden centre in 2021.

Nearby, Nottinghamshire's first record of *Oxidus gracilis*, came when one was found underneath a plant pot stood on bark chippings situated underneath a number of large conifers at a Mapperley garden centre in November 2022.

None of the UK's three species of *Brachychaeteuma* millipedes had ever been recorded in Nottinghamshire before early January 2016, so the record of an unidentified *Brachychaeteuma* from Tim Sexton's Attenborough garden was especially welcome.

Unfortunately, two of the three UK *Brachychaeteuma* species are extremely difficult to determine to species level and require an adult male to be able to do so. Even then, there is great variability in the male gonopods and after Tim's Attenborough record, several *Brachychaeteuma* millipedes were subsequently recorded at Pleasley Vale by Derek Whiteley and from Mansfield Woodhouse and Mapperley gardens by Dilys and myself.

A succession of records from the suburban Mapperley garden since December 2016, eventually culminated in the finding of a male two years later, which finally allowed us to identify the species occurring there at least, as being *Brachychaeteuma bagnalli*.

# Current checklist of Nottinghamshire Millipedes

Species list accurate as of February 2018

## POLYXENIDAE

*Polyxenus lagurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

## GLOMERIDAE

*Glomeris marginata* (Villers, 1789)

## CRASPEDOSOMATIDAE

*Nanogona polydesmoides* (Leach, 1814)

## CHORDEUMATIDAE

*Brachychaeteuma bagnalli* (Verhoeff, 1911)

*Chordeuma proximum* (Ribaut, 1913)

*Melogona scutellaris* (Ribaut, 1913)

## POLYDESMIDAE

*Oxidus gracilis* (C.L.Koch, 1847)

*Brachydesmus superus* (Latzel, 1884)

*Polydesmus angustus* (Latzel, 1884)

*Polydesmus coriaceus* (Porat, 1871)

*Polydesmus denticulatus* (C.L.Koch, 1847)

*Polydesmus inconstans* (Latzel, 1884)

## MACROSTERNODESMIDAE

*Macrosternodesmus pallicola* (Brölemann, 1908)

*Ophiodesmus albonanus* (Latzel, 1895)

## BLANIULIDAE

*Choneiulus palmatus* (Nemec, 1895)

*Proteroiulus fuscus* (Am Stein, 1857)

*Blaniulus guttulatus* (Fabricius, 1798)

*Archiboreoiulus pallidus* (Brade-Birks, 1920)

*Boreoiulus tenuis* (Bigler, 1913)

## NEMASOMATIDAE

*Nemasoma varicorne* (C.L.Koch, 1847)

## JULIDAE

*Allajulus nitidus* (Verhoeff, 1891)

*Julus scandinavicus* (Latzel, 1884)

*Ophiulus pilosus* (Newport, 1842)

*Leptoiulus belgicus* (Latzel, 1844)

*Cylindroiulus britannicus* (Verhoeff, 1891)

*Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* (Wood, 1864)

*Cylindroiulus punctatus* (Leach, 1815)

*Cylindroiulus truncorum* (Sylvestri, 1896)

*Brachyiulus pusillus* (Leach, 1815)

*Ommatoiulus sabulosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Tachypodoiulus niger* (Leach, 1814)



## Species accounts

### ***Polyxenus lagurus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

A tiny millipede found underneath loose mortar and flaking stonework on the walls of Churches etc. *Polyxenus lagurus* is still a much under-recorded species in Nottinghamshire, although records have increased in recent years, thought to have been encouraged by the greater awareness of millipedes generated via the website [www.eakringbirds.com](http://www.eakringbirds.com).

Our initial research for the original atlas had found no modern Nottinghamshire records of *Polyxenus lagurus*, more commonly known as the Bristly Millipede and no records were in the database of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group, but the NBN Atlas listed records for Attenborough NR in 1967 and 1970 (Evans, M.) and it has been found there more recently.

Other records have followed the discovery of *Polyxenus lagurus* on a wall at Church Warsop in 2015 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) with records from Woodborough Church and Southwell Minster.

### ***Glomeris marginata*** (Villers, 1789)

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

### ***Brachychaeteuma bagnalli*** (Verhoeff, 1911)

Not recorded from the county until three records in 2016. Until December 2018, all records had proved to be females and so they were indeterminable to species, but all considered most likely to have been *Brachychaeteuma bagnalli*. The 2016 records were from from Attenborough (Sexton, T.), Pleasley Vale (Whiteley, D.) and from suburban gardens at Mapperley and Mansfield Woodhouse in 2016 and then again in 2017 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

*Brachychaeteuma bagnalli* was eventually confirmed as being the species found at Mapperley in December 2018 when a male was finally recorded and the species is still occasionally recorded at this site as of December 2022 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

### ***Nanogona polydesmoides*** (Leach, 1814)

Possibly more widespread than the current distribution map would suggest. This millipede has been well recorded from around the area local to Bingham, west through the forested areas north of Nottingham across to the Bestwood and Ravenshead.

Further north, recording work has showed *Nanogona polydesmoides* to be equally as widespread, although it is certainly not a species found all that regularly. There are now numerous records from the Sherwood Forest area and from Lound Wood at Eakring. The most northerly county records are from Worksop Priory and Steetley.

### ***Chordeuma proximum*** (Ribaut, 1913)

Recorded new to Nottinghamshire in January 2015, when found under an old carpet tipped along a disused railway line near King's Clipstone (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) and recorded just over a mile away from Clipstone Old Quarter in Sherwood Forest in 2017 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

Additional sites for *Chordeuma proximum* have recently been found at woodland along the side of the A614 at Clumber Park and at Meden Vale in 2021 and again in early 2022, when a number of specimens turned up in leaf litter samples examined taken over the winter months.

### ***Oxidus gracilis*** (C.L.Koch, 1847)

Only recorded new to Nottinghamshire when a single specimen was found underneath a plant pot stood on bark chippings underneath a number of large conifers at a Mapperley garden centre in late November 2022.

### ***Brachydesmus superus*** (Latzel, 1884)

Common and proving increasingly so, with most Nottinghamshire records originally coming from the Bingham area and Colwick Woods. In the north of the county, this millipede has been infrequently recorded, but there are an increasing number of records through regular recording work from sites including Treswell Wood, Eakring, Kirton Wood, Dyscarr Wood, Sherwood Forest and along the Trent Valley near Newark.

### ***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)

There are currently far fewer records of this *Polydesmus* for Nottinghamshire, than there are for *P. angustus* and *P. inconstans*. Continued examination of any *Polydesmus* sp, may prove that this species is more common, but the current number of records would suggest otherwise.

***Polydesmus denticulatus*** (C.L.Koch, 1847)

Just two Nottinghamshire records of this *Polydesmus*. There are records from Ploughman Wood in 1998 (Kirby, P.) and Sherwood Heath in 2006 (Godfrey, A.). For some reason, this species was omitted from previous editions of this Atlas.

***Polydesmus inconstans*** (Latzel, 1884)

Presently confined to a broad band of records running from south-east to north-west Nottinghamshire. Examination of any *Polydesmus* sp, may prove that this species to be more common.

***Ophiodesmus albonanus*** (Latzel, 1895)

One of at least three species of small white millipedes known from Nottinghamshire. The only known records are from Bingham in 1969 (Jones, P.E. and Barber, A.) and most recently from Mapperley and Market Warsop gardens in 2016 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) and from Woodthorpe Park in 2020.

***Choneiulus palmatus*** (Nêmec, 1895)

Impossible to separate from *Proteroiulus fuscus* and *Nopoiulus kochii*, without the aid of a microscope. It seems very much a millipede of buildings and urban sites, but was still a surprise find underneath the loose mortar of an old stone wall at Church Warsop in late March 2015 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

There were no records prior to this, but it was subsequently recorded from the grounds of the Nottingham City Hospital (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) in 2017.

***Proteroiulus fuscus*** (Am Stein, 1857)

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

***Blaniulus guttulatus*** (Fabricius, 1798)

Widespread in woodland, but also commonly 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 throughout the Sherwood Forest area of Nottinghamshire. There are several similar species which can cause identification difficulties, but none are as common as *Blaniulus guttulatus*.

***Archiboreoiulus pallidus*** (Brade-Birks, 1920)

A millipede which has historically been found largely in the south-east of Nottinghamshire. Most records have come from Bingham where it was widely recorded, but there are Trent Valley records from Shelford and Radcliffe-on-Trent (Jones, P.E.) in 1969.

Recent records have come from Attenborough NR in 2017 (Sexton, T.) and Besthorpe NR near Newark in 2017 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

***Boreoiulus tenuis*** (Bigler, 1913)

Uncommon and possibly a much under-recorded species in Nottinghamshire, showing a wide range of habitat preferences. There have been records from Rufford Pit Top, Southwell Trail, a Mapperley garden and Besthorpe NR, since being discovered new to the county at Kelham Hills in 2015 (Heeney, W.).

***Nemasoma varicorne*** (C.L.Koch, 1847)

Formerly rare in VC56 Nottinghamshire, with three records from Whatton and Radcliffe-on-Trent in 1969 (Jones, R.E.) and at Sherwood Forest in 1970 (Jones, P.E.). Now being recorded at several other sites, but seemingly not common anywhere, although there are regular occurrences from the Sherwood Forest CP.

***Julus scandinavicus*** (Latzel, 1884)

Once regarded as being rare/uncommon, on the basis of just a handful of county records. coming from the western-half of the county, but thought by the authors to be somewhat under-recorded.

Recorded from Oxtan Bog in 1970 (Barber, A.), Worksop in 1977 and Rufford CP (Ely, B.), Wilwell Farm Cutting in 1983 (Terrell-Nield, C.) and both Pleasley Vale (Whiteley, D.) and Sherwood Forest (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) in 2016.

More recent records have come from new sites at Clipstone Old Quarter in 2020 and Hannah Park Wood (Worksop) and Meden Vale in 2021.

***Ophiulus pilosus*** (Newport, 1842)

A common Millipede in south-east Nottinghamshire, but for some unknown reason is decidedly uncommon elsewhere in the county. The vast majority of the county's records come from the lower Trent Valley in the late 1960's and early 1970's (Jones, R.E. and Barber, A.) and more recently from Attenborough NR (Sexton, T.).

Further up the Trent Valley, it has been recorded from Farndon near Newark and the few records from the north-west of the county, have come from Meden Vale, Worksop, Pleasley Vale and from along the Teversal Trail.

***Leptoiulus belgicus*** (Latzel, 1844)

Added new to Nottinghamshire in February 2018, when found in a suburban garden at Mapperley. (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) then recorded from a Garden Centre at Lambley (Pendleton, T.A.) in 2021.

***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.). The number of records has increased since, with most records coming from the wider Sherwood Forest area, where it is often common in old piles of wood chippings.

There are records from the general Nottingham area, where it has been found at Lambley Cemetery, Stoke Bardolph and the grounds of Nottingham City Hospital. There is a single, isolated record from Spalford Warren in the east of the county.

***Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus*** (Wood, 1864)

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

In recent years, increased recording has found this large millipede with a brassy/metallic lustre to be widespread between Nottingham and north of Mansfield up to Barrow Hills Wood in the Idle Valley.

***Cylindroiulus punctatus*** (Leach, 1815)

Very common and one of Nottinghamshire's most abundant and widespread species. Indeed, it is so common, it is likely found in every 1km grid square throughout Nottinghamshire and in a wide range of habitats. Is also recorded from suburban gardens, where it can be found under logs and stones etc. Well recorded from Sherwood Forest and the Bingham/Trent Valley area, but common everywhere.

***Cylindroiulus truncorum*** (Sylvestri, 1896)

Only discovered in Nottinghamshire in November 2021, when found underneath plant pots in an outside standing area of a Worksop garden centre.

Despite strongly being suspected as being *Cylindroiulus truncorum* on discovery, the identification was not able to be confirmed until a second specimen (a male) was taken from the same site in January 2022. A rare Millipede in the UK, there is a Leicestershire record and it is known from botanical gardens at Kew, Oxford and Glasgow (Source:- BMIG website).

***Brachyiulus pusillus*** (Leach, 1815)

This is another millipede which has benefitted from increased recording over the past few years. At one time, the relatively small number of county records suggested that this millipede is uncommon, but it has proved to be quite widespread (though thinly distributed) over a large area of central Nottinghamshire.

***Ommatoiulus sabulosus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

A large and easy to identify Millipede, which can often be found openly on the trunks of deciduous trees. It is very common throughout 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, P.E.)

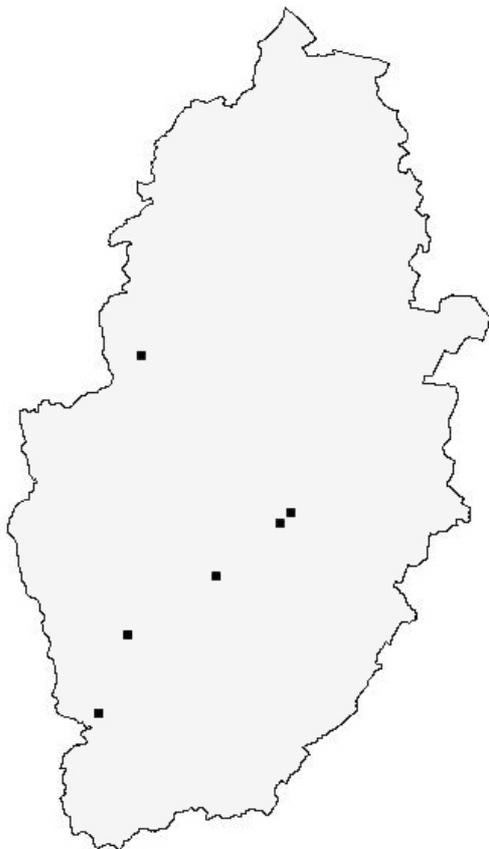
***Tachypodoiulus niger*** (Leach, 1814)

This is probably the most widespread Nottinghamshire millipede and one which is 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.

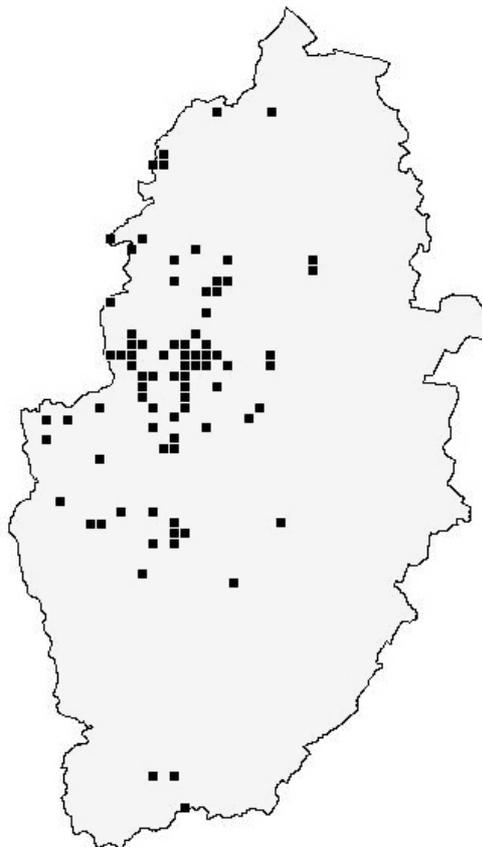
## Distribution maps

The following distribution maps are the latest available and taken from the website [www.eakingbirds.com](http://www.eakingbirds.com) and which were updated at the beginning of December 2022.

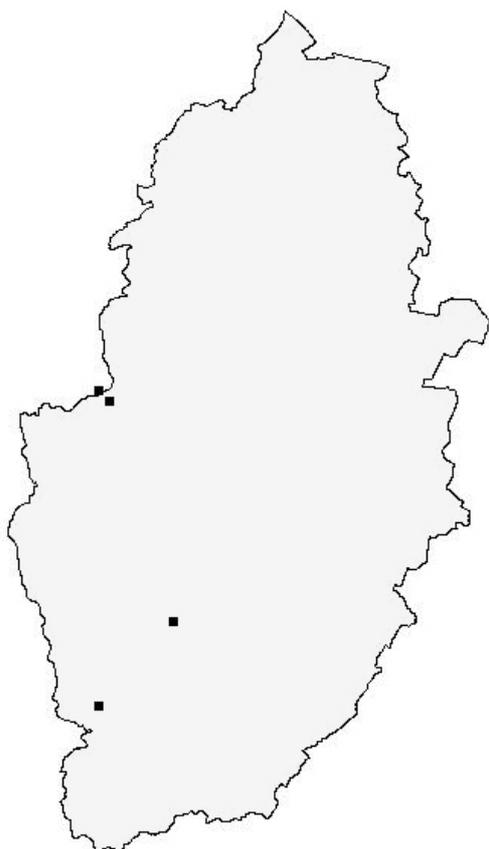
*Polyxenus lagurus*



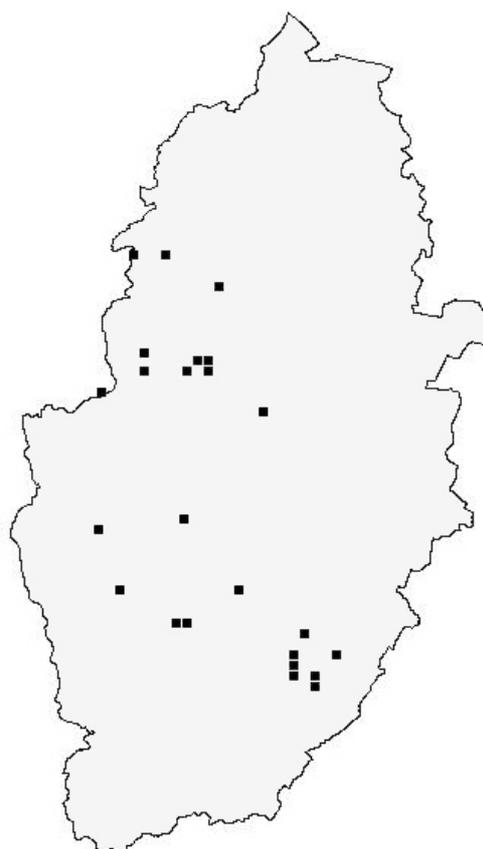
*Glomeris marginata*



*Brachychaeteuma bagnalli/sp*



*Nanogona polydesmoides*



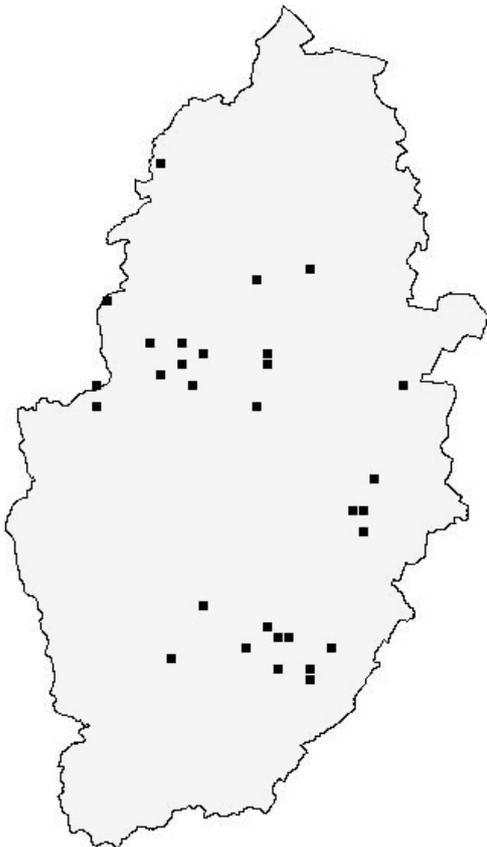
*Chordeuma proximum*



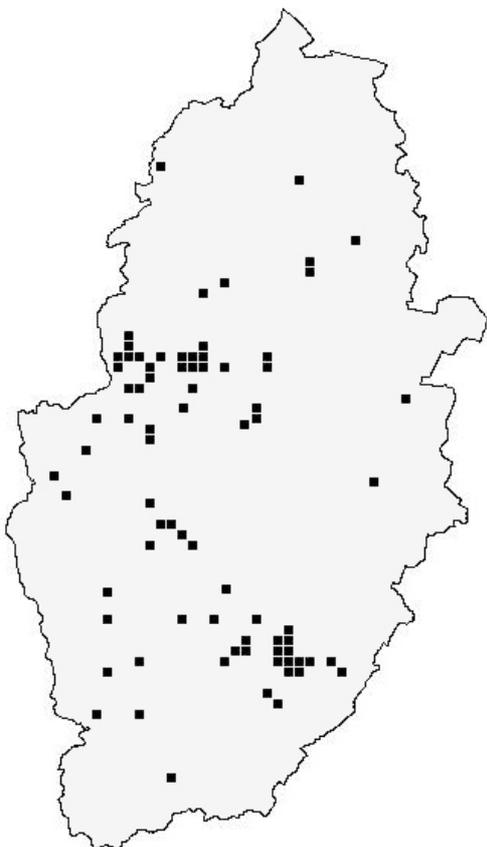
*Melogona scutellaris*



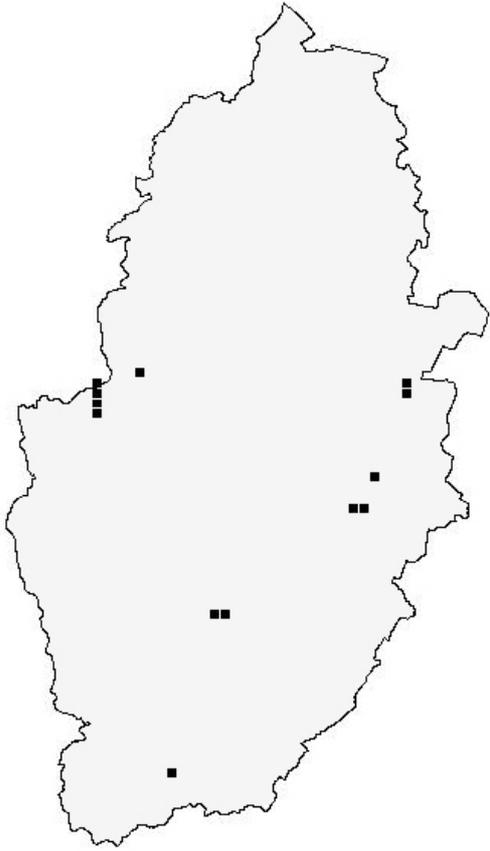
*Brachydesmus superus*



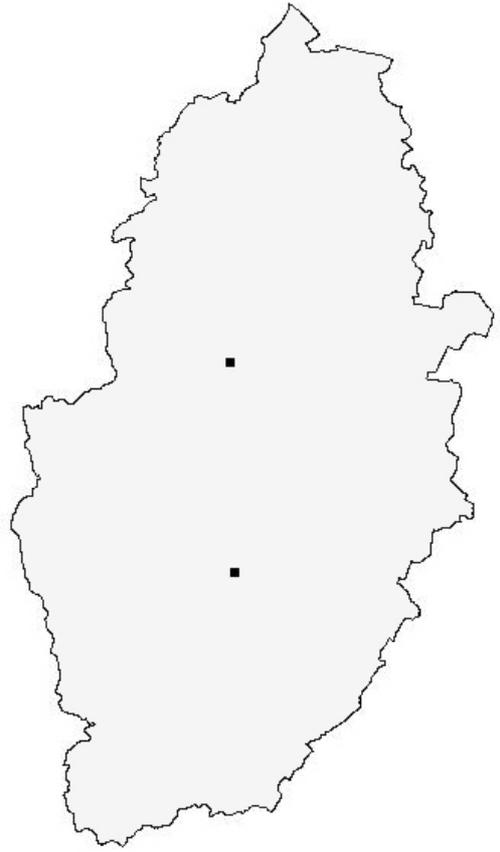
*Polydesmus angustus*



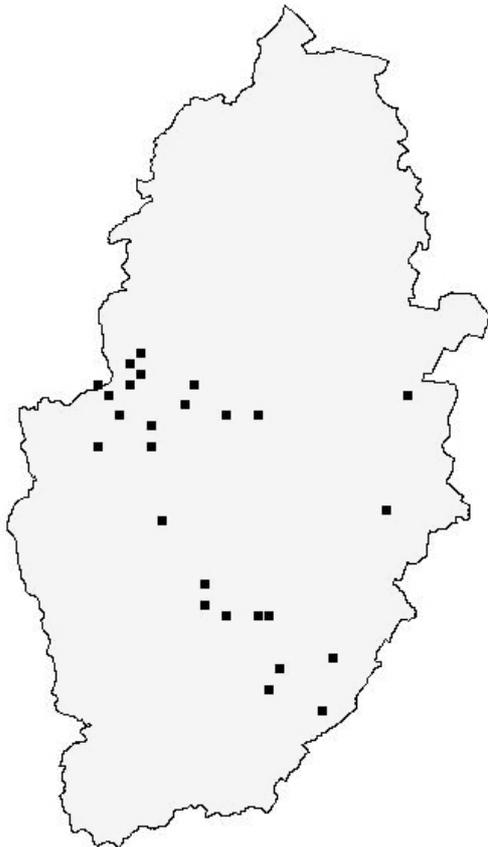
*Polydesmus coriaceus*



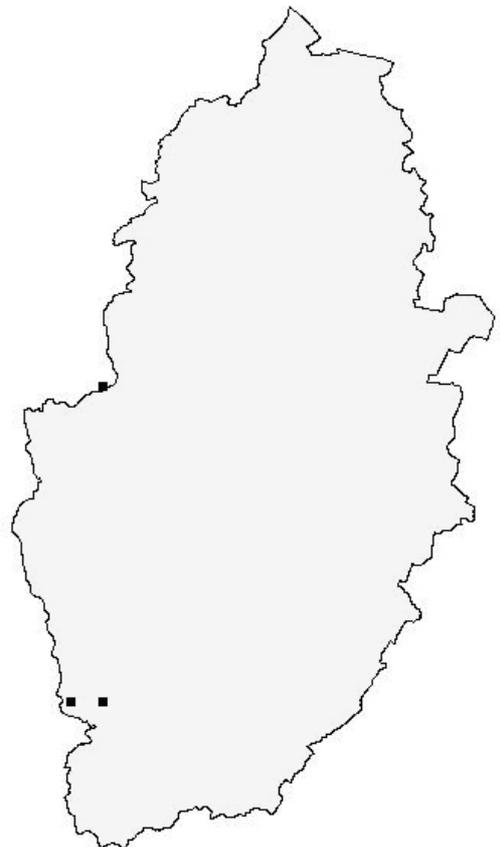
*Polydesmus denticulatus*



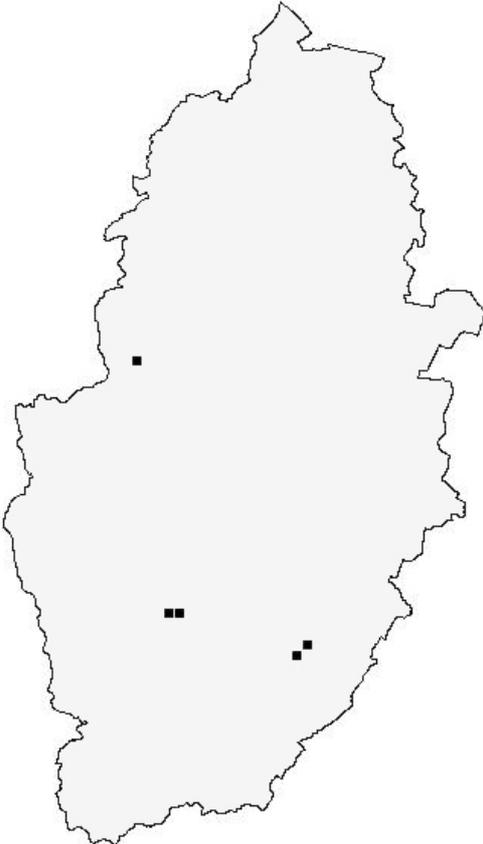
*Polydesmus inconstans*



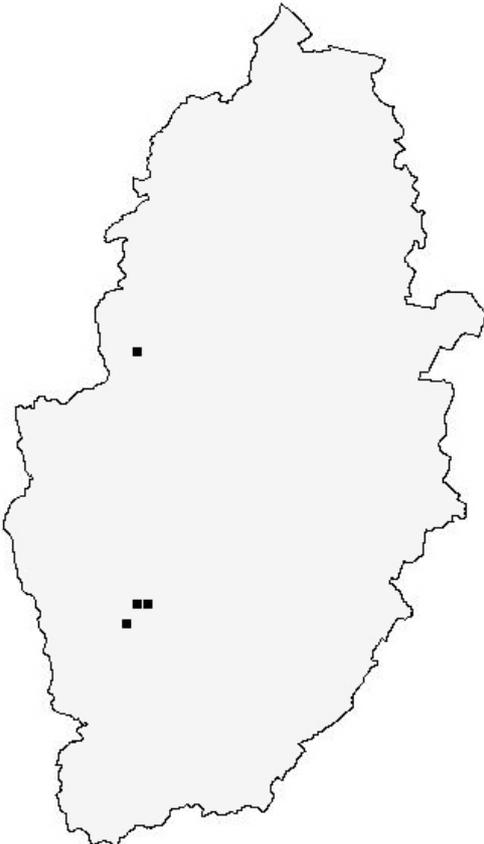
*Macrosternodesmus pallicola*



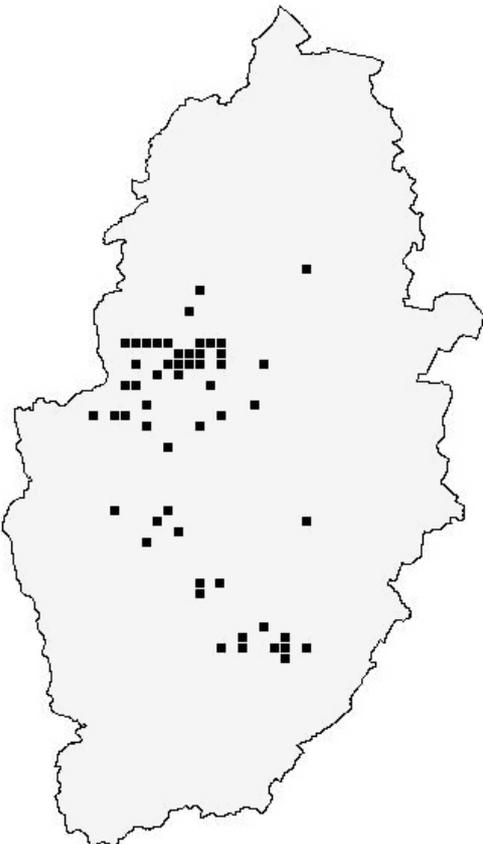
*Ophiodesmus albonanus* (Latzel, 1895)



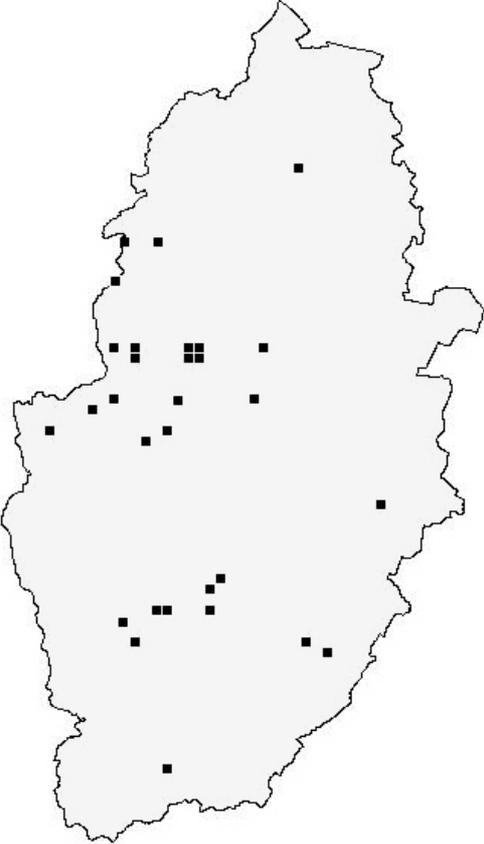
*Choneiulus palmatus* (Nemec, 1895)



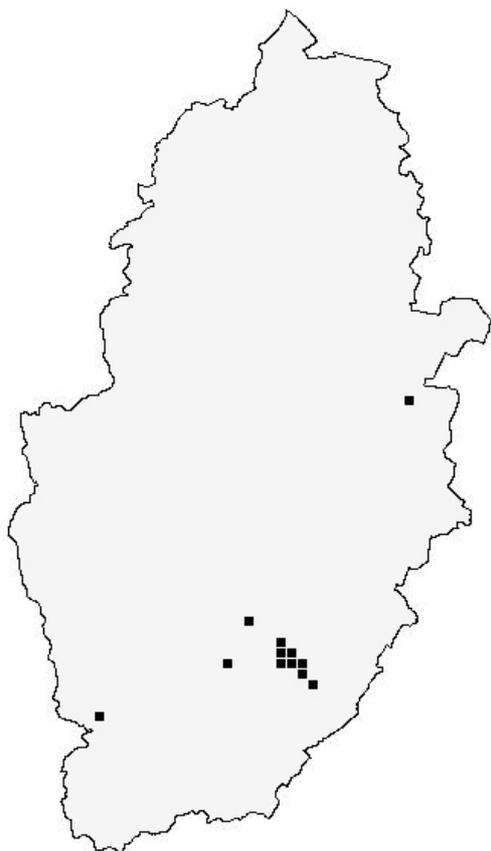
*Proteroiulus fuscus*



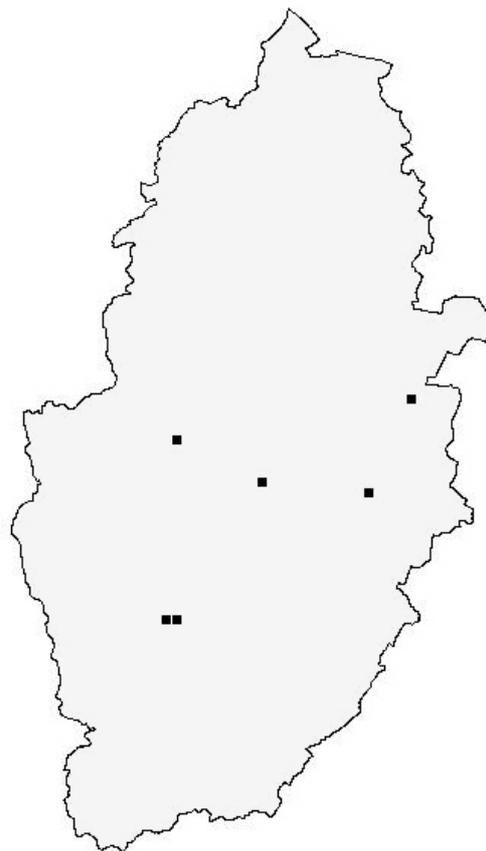
*Blaniulus guttulatus*



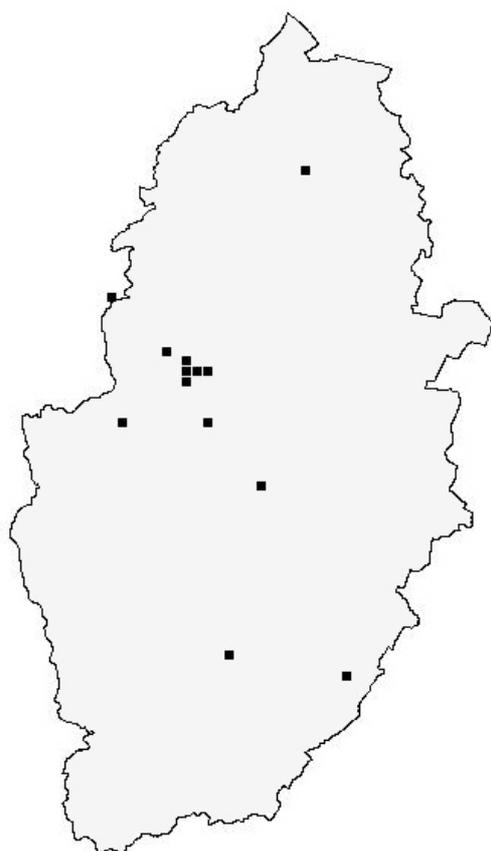
*Archiboreoiulus pallidus*



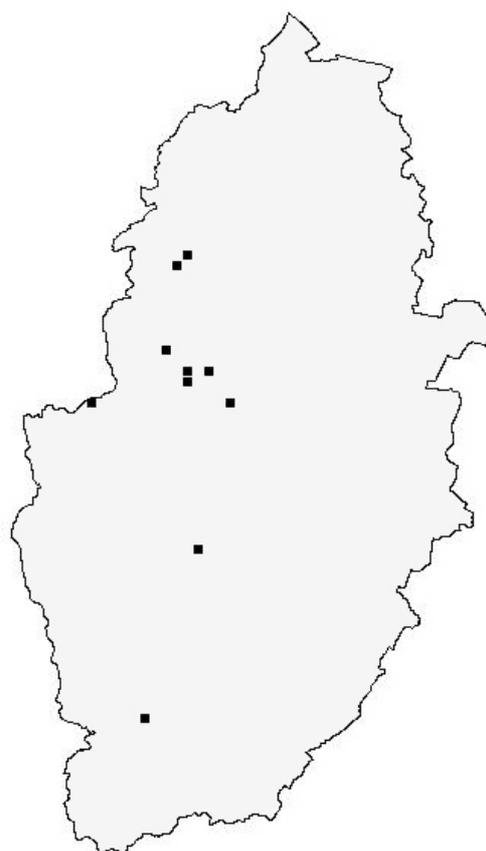
*Boreoiulus tenuis*



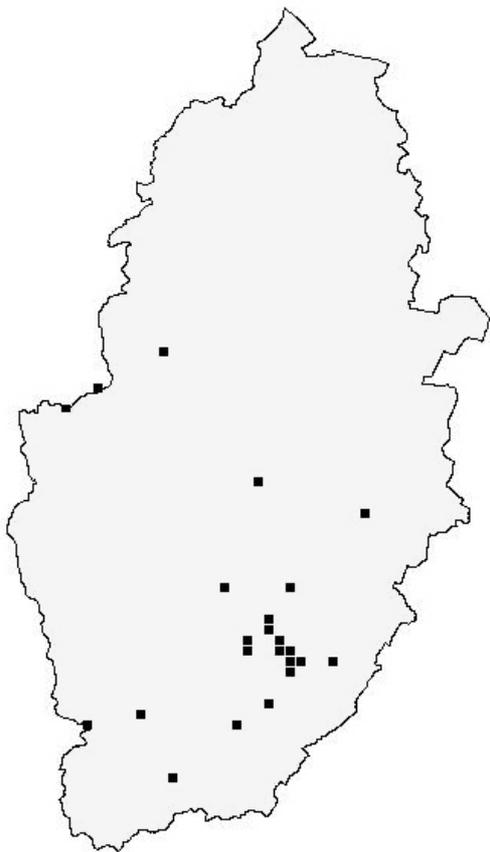
*Nemasoma varicorne*



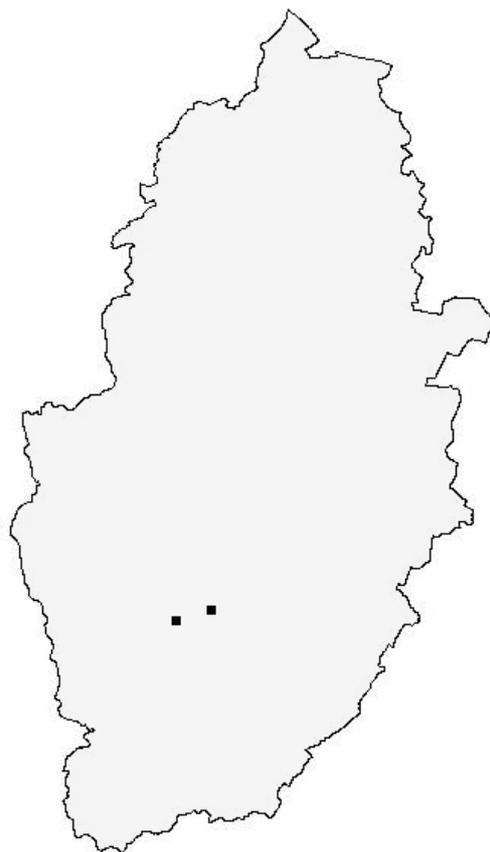
*Julus scandinavicus*



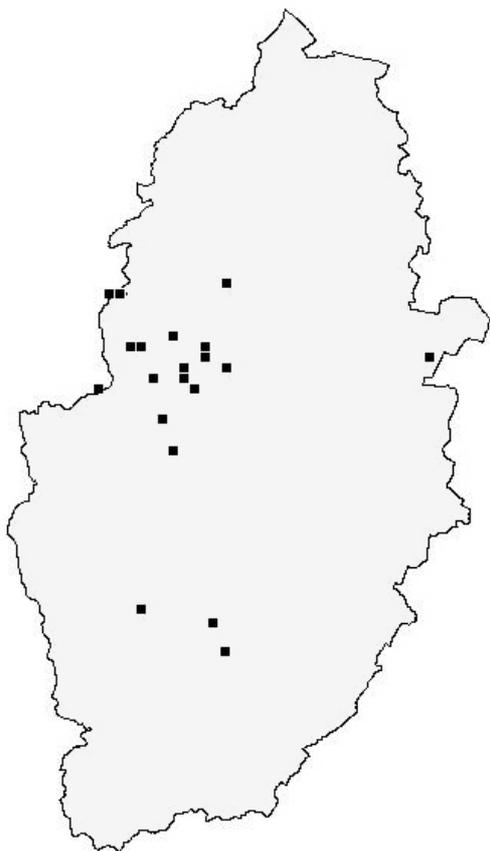
*Ophiulus pilosus*



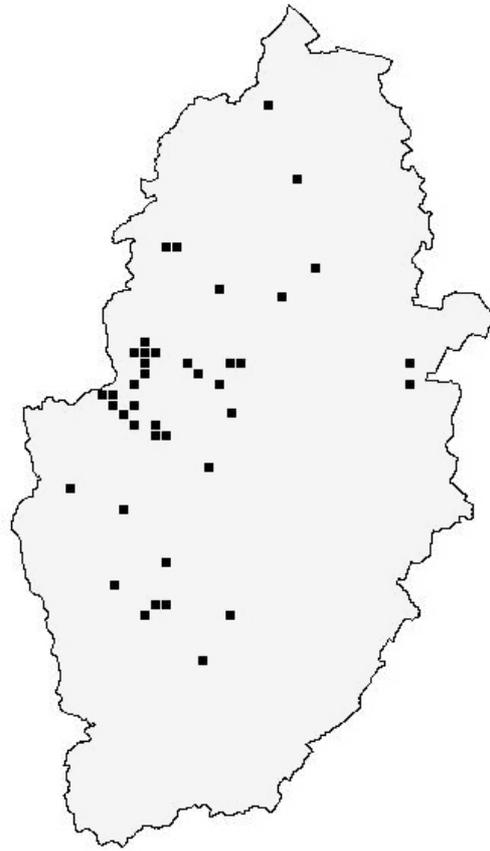
*Leptoiulus belgicus*



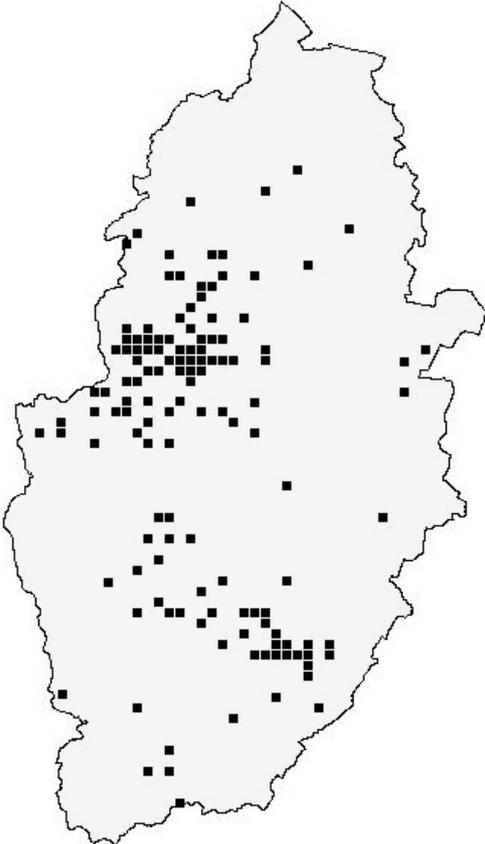
*Cylindroiulus britannicus*



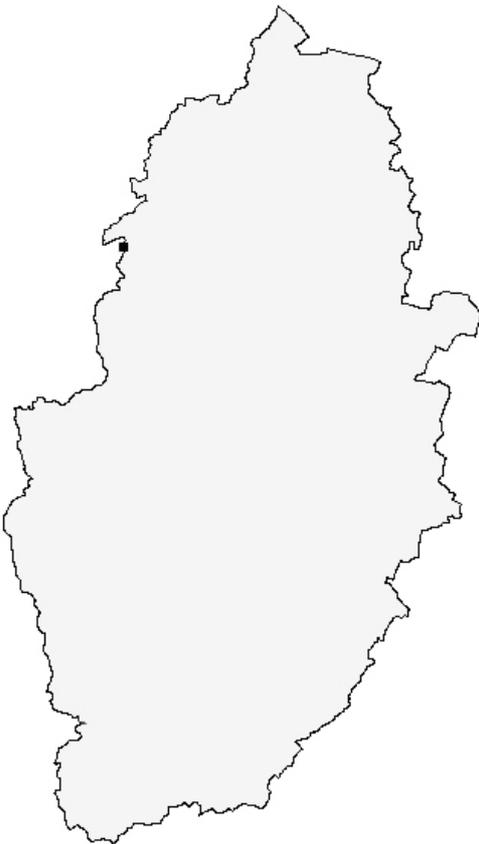
*Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus*



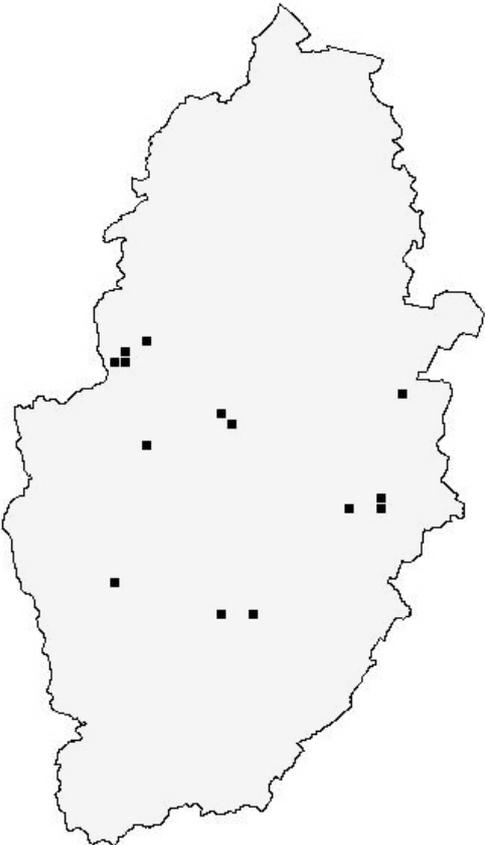
*Cylindroiulus punctatus*



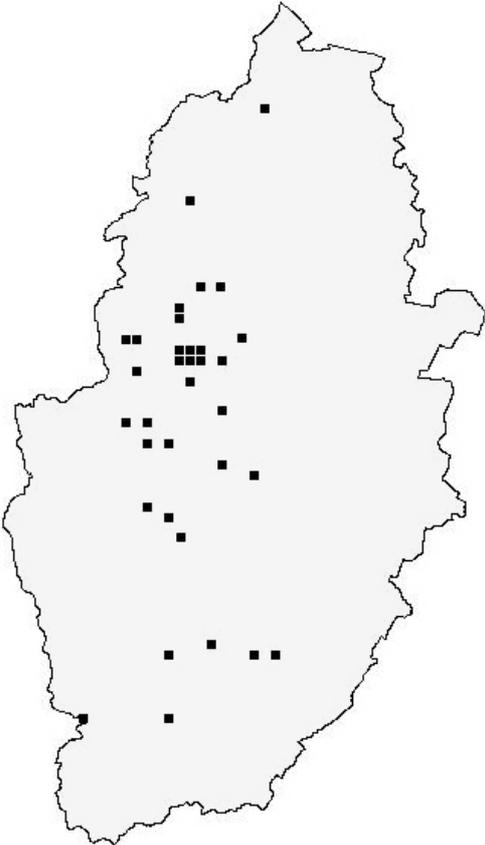
*Cylindroiulus truncorum*



*Brachyiulus pusillus*



*Ommatoiulus sabulosus*



*Tachypodoiulus niger*

