A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes

Third revision  February 2018

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Introduction

This modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Millipedes, follows the same format as used in the related 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.

Millipedes recently recorded as being new to Nottinghamshire

Following on from the increased interest in Nottinghamshire Millipedes, a good number of new species have been added to the county list in the last few years. Millipedes new to VC56 are Chordeuma proximum, Choneiulus palmatus and Boreoiulus tenuis in 2015, Macrosternodesmus pallicola in 2016, Melogona scutellaris in 2017 and most recently Leptoiulus belgicus in 2018. The latter two species being found in a suburban garden at Mapperley. An ‘almost’ new species (or possibly two) are unidentified Brachychaeteuma Millipedes found at three sites in 2016.

None of the UK’s three species of Brachychaeteuma Millipedes have ever been recorded before in Nottinghamshire, so the record of a Brachychaeteuma sp from an Attenborough garden in early January 2016, is certainly representative of what species are waiting to be discovered, even within the confines of an urban garden.

Unfortunately, two of the three UK Brachychaeteuma Millipedes are extremely difficult to determine to species level and require an adult male to do so. Even then, there is great variability in the male gonopods.

To make matters slightly worse for Tim Sexton (who found the specimen and sent us the photograph on the right for inclusion) it was a female and so remains as Brachychaeteuma sp, but is either B. bagnalli or possibly B. bradeae.

A second unidentifiable female Brachychaeteuma sp, was collected by Derek Whiteley from Pleasley Vale in February 2016 and yet another by ourselves at Mapperley in December 2016.
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 sp*
*Chordeuma proximum* (Ribaut, 1913)
*Melogona scutellaris* (Ribaut, 1913)

POLYDESMIDAE
*Brachydesmus superus* (Latzel, 1884)
*Polydesmus angustus* (Latzel, 1884)
*Polydesmus coriaceus* (Porat, 1871)
*Polydesmus inconstans* (Latzel, 1884)

MACROSTERNODESMIDAE
*Macrosterodesmus 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
*Julus scandinavius* (Latzel, 1884)
*Ophyiulus pilosus* (Newport, 1842)
*Leptoiulus belgicus* (Latzel, 1844)
*Cylindroiulus britannicus* (Verhoeff, 1891)
*Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* (Wood, 1864)
*Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* (Wood, 1864)
*Cylindroiulus punctatus* (Leach, 1815)
*Brachyiulus pusillus* (Leach, 1815)
*Ommatoiulus sabulosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
*Tachypodoiulus niger* (Leach, 1814)
Species accounts

**Polyxenus lagurus** (Linnaeus, 1758)
Found on stone walls, especially Churches etc. Our initial research showed no modern Nottinghamshire records of *Polyxenus lagurus*, more commonly known as the Bristly Millipede. No records are listed by the British Myriapod and Isopod Group, but the NBN Gateway lists 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 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 Eakring.

**Chordeuma proximum** (Ribaut, 1913)
Recorded new to Nottinghamshire in January 2015, from a disused railway line near King's Clipstone (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) and recorded again by the same observers in 2017 from Clipstone Old Quarter in Sherwood Forest, just over a mile away. *Chordeuma proximum* is known to have a strong south-westerly distribution in the UK.

**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)
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 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.) and most recently from Mapperley and Market Warsop gardens in 2016 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.).

**Choneiulus palmatus** (Némec, 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 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 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 and from Attenborough NR (Sexton, T.) and Besthorpe NR near Newark in 2017.

**Boreoiulus tenuis** (Bigler, 1913)
Uncommon and presumably a much under-recorded species in Nottinghamshire. There have been records from Rufford Pit Top, Southwell Trail, Mapperley and Besthorpe NR, since being discovered new to the county at Kelham Hills in 2015 (Heeney, W.).

**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.). Now being recorded at several other sites, but seemingly not common.

**Julus scandinavius** (Latzel, 1884)
Currently rare on the basis of just six Nottinghamshire records, all coming from the western-half of the county. Recorded from Oxton Bog in 1970 (Barber, A.) and Wilwell Farm Cutting in 1983 (Terrell-Nield, C.) but most recently from Pleasley Vale (Whiteley, D.) and Sherwood Forest (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.) in 2016.

**Ophyiulus 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.)

**Leptoiulus belgicus** (Latzel, 1844)
Added new to the Nottinghamshire list in February 2018, when found in a suburban garden at Mapperley. (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T.)

**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 Sherwood Forest area.

**Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus** (Wood, 1864)
Recorded from numerous sites, including Newstead Abbey, Sherwood Forest, Gamston Wood and Bevercotes Pit Wood, all in north-west Nottinghamshire. Found to be widespread between Nottingham and north of Mansfield.

**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)
The relatively small number of 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.
*Polyxenus lagurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Glomeris marginata* (Villers, 1789)  
*Brachychaeteuma sp*  
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