

A SURVEY OF LUNDY'S ISOPODS (WOODLICE) AND MYRIAPODS (CENTIPEDES AND MILLIPEDES)

An annotated list of the species found during three weeks
between late September and late December 2012
(with additional records from day-trips in April/May 2013)

by

KEITH LUGG
Email: keithLugg@aol.com

A survey of the Isopods (woodlice) and Myriapods (centipedes and millipedes) of Lundy was first suggested to me by Andrew Cleave, who knew that I was keen on these groups and had done quite a lot of recording since first becoming interested in October 2011.

I booked one week for the end of September and early October 2012, staying in Old Light Cottage. During the first part of that trip, Andrew Cleave, Paul Sterry and Michael Foord were also on the island and helped me to find my way around. At the end of the week I realised not only had I not covered much of the island, but I had also caught the 'Lundy bug'. On arriving home I persuaded my wife that she really would not miss the television that much over Christmas and booked two weeks starting on 14 December 2012; one week in Square Cottage, the second in Big St John's. Over that fortnight I was able to cover more of the island, but there are still many areas I have either not looked at or have not investigated thoroughly. The fact that I found an additional species while on a day trip in spring 2013 shows the potential. I will be back again with my wife over Christmas 2013 (this time in Tibbetts for most of the time) to see what else I can find.

I would like to thank Grant Sherman for his help, knowledge and company on a very wet day while looking around The Battery; without his knowledge of the site I don't think I would have found *Trichoniscoides saeroeensis* on my own.

AMPHIPODA (Landhoppers)

Arcitalitrus darieni (Hunt 1925) – under stones near Millcombe walled gardens.

ISOPODA (Woodlice)

Ligia oceanica (Linnaeus, 1767) – one found on the beach at Landing Bay, others under rocks at the side of the Beach Road.

Androniscus dentiger (Verhoeff, 1930) – fairly common around the Beach Road and the entrance to the canoe store. Also seen in the walled gardens, Millcombe.

Miktoniscus patiencei (Vandal, 1946) – several under stones at North Light. See colour plate 10.

Trichoniscoides saeroeensis (Lohmander, 1923) – several on the underside of partially embedded granite blocks on the upper storage area of The Battery. See colour plate 10.

Trichoniscus pusillus agg. – *T. pusillus* (Brandt, 1833) – in scattered locations throughout the island, from Millcombe valley to north of Gannets' Combe.

Trichoniscus pygmaeus (Sars, 1898) – found near the Castle & also inside the Old Hospital.

Halophiloscia couchii (Kinahan, 1858) – around the Landing Bay, both on the upper parts of the beach in slate shingle and under stones on either side of the Beach Road. See colour plate 10.

Oniscus asellus ssp. *asellus* (Linnaeus, 1758) – throughout the island.

Philoscia muscorum (Scopoli, 1763) – found mainly on the east of the island from the Castle to the North End.

Platyarthus hoffmannseggii (Brandt, 1833) – seen in the south-east of the island from the Castle as far north as the Quarries.

Porcellio scaber (Latreille, 1818) – found only in the south of the island from The Battery to Quarry Beach, with none seen north of Halfway Wall.

Porcellionides cingendus (Kinahan, 1857) – found in Quarter Wall Cottages, under a loose stone on top of the wall just south of Quarter Wall & in Millcombe.

Armadillidium depressum (Brandt, 1833) – in September 2012 the walls around Old Light Cottage were covered by this species during a torch-lit survey at night. However, it was difficult to find them during the day. In December 2012 they were coming into the hallway of Big St John's. During day-trips in late April and mid-May 2013 they were common alongside the Beach Road.

Armadillidium vulgare (Latreille, 1804) – found throughout the island.

CHILOPODA (Centipedes)

GEOPHILOMORPHA

Strigmatogaster subterranea (Shaw, 1789) – found in the grounds of the Old Light, near Stoneycroft, and in Quarter Wall Cottages.

Schendyla nemorensis (C.L.Koch, 1837) – found around the Castle, along the West Side path and at the North End.

Strigamia maritima (Leach, 1817) – one found at about 10 cm depth in slate shingle at the top of the Landing Bay.

Geophilus flavus (De Geer, 1778) – found under a stone at the base of a wall between the Church and Castle, inside Quarter Wall Cottages & under a large rock at the side of the main track north of Gannets' Combe.

Geophilus truncorum (Bergsoe & Meinert, 1886) – found only at the North Light.

SCOLOPENDROMORPHA

Cryptops hortensis (Donovan, 1810) – mainly found in the south of the island (the more human-influenced areas), notably at the Landing Bay, Old Light Cottage, Quarry Beach, Millcombe and The Battery.

LITHOBIOMORPHA

Lithobius variegatus (Leach, 1813) – found throughout the island.

Lithobius forficatus (Linne, 1758) – found at Old Light Cottage, Stoneycroft garden and the Landing Bay. See colour plate 10.

Lithobius borealis (Meinert, 1868) – seen at North Light and under a loose stone on top of a wall just south of Quarter Wall.

Lithobius microps (Meinert, 1868) – found outside the Quarters, at Quarter Wall Cottages, in Stoneycroft garden, and on the path between the Church and Castle.

DIPLOPODA (Millipedes)

GLOMERIDA

Glomeris marginata (Villers, 1789) – found only on the East Side, from the Beach Road in the south to the main track past Gannets' Combe in the north.

CHORDEUMATIDA

Nanogona polydesmoides (Leach, 1814) – seen only at Quarter Wall Cottages. See colour plate 10.

POLYDESMIDA

Brachydesmus superus (Latzel, 1884) – found at the Camp Site (near the refuse area), The Battery, and Quarter Wall Cottages.

Polydesmus angustus (Latzel, 1884) – the only adults seen were around Quarter Wall Cottages and the Old Hospital. However, immature (therefore not identifiable to species) *Polydesmus* species were seen at the Camp Site and on the path to Quarry Beach.

Macrosternodesmus palicola (Brölemann, 1908) – found inside Quarter Wall Cottages, the Old Hospital, and by the side of the main track near Quarter Wall.

Ophiodesmus albonanus (Latzel, 1895) – a late addition, found under a partially embedded rock, while checking on the progress of the landhoppers at the side of the road in Millcombe, on a day trip in mid-May 2013.

JULIDA

Proteroiulus fuscus (Am Stein, 1857) – found under a stone in a path at the top of Millcombe, and on the underside of a piece of dead Rhododendron stem lying across dry bracken on the path down to Quarry Beach.

Blaniulus guttulatus (Fabricius, 1798) – found in the graveyard, the top of Quarry Beach, in Quarter Wall Cottages, and under a large rock at the side of the main track north of Gannets' Combe.

Cylindroiulus latestriatus (Curtis, 1845) – seen at The Battery, North Light and under a large rock at the side of the main track north of Gannets' Combe.

Tachypodoiulus niger (Leach, 1814) – found only in Millcombe.

For further information on woodlice, centipedes & millipedes, including the recording schemes please see: www.bmig.org.uk/index.php?q=home