

Myriapoda

The myriapods comprise two large classes, the centipedes and millipedes, both well represented in Fife; and two small classes, the Symphyla and the Pauropoda. No pauropods appear to have been recorded in Fife although they are likely to occur.

Update/Revision History: Revised by Gordon Corbet, January 2006.

Chelopoda - centipedes

Predators living mainly on and under the ground. Fairly well recorded. Names follow Barber & Keay (1988): Provisional atlas of the centipedes of the British Isles (Biological Records Centre), with a few updated.

Geophilomorpha

Very elongate, blind centipedes living in the soil, dead wood etc.

Haplophilus subterraneus: Newburn; a local garden species in Scotland.

Schendyla nemorensis: Widespread on S coast.

Strigamia crassipes: One old record at Donibristle.

Strigamia maritimus: Strictly coastal, in muddy gravel around HWM.

Geophilus carpophagus: Is of May, Inchcolm, Kincaig cliffs; in crevices in coastal cliffs.

Geophilus easoni: On dune grassland and moorland; described as distinct from *G.carpophagus* in 2001; older records of *G.carpophagus* in Fife probably refer to this species.

Geophilus electricus: Local, in gardens and cemeteries.

Geophilus insculptus: Widespread in woods and gardens.

Necrophloeophagus flavus: Widespread in woods and gardens.

Brachygeophilus truncorum: Widespread in dead wood and leaf-litter, including dune grassland.

Lithobiomorpha

Short, surface-active centipedes.

Lithobius calcaratus: One old record near Blairadam.

Lithobius crassipes: Widespread, especially in woods.

Lithobius forficatus: Widespread in many habitats; the commonest large centipede in gardens.

Lithobius macilentus: A few sites in E Fife, mainly calcareous.

Lithobius melanops: Widespread.

Lithobius microps: A small woodland species, close to the northern limit of its range in Fife.

Lithobius variegatus: One old record in W Fife.

Lamyctes fulvicornis: Kirkcaldy, Ladybank.

Diplopoda - millipedes

Feed mainly on dead vegetation; important creators of humus-rich soil. Well recorded. Names follow Blower (1985): Millipedes, Synopses of the British Fauna, no. 35 (Linnean Society of London).

Polyxenida - bristly millipedes

Polyxenus lagurus: A short, bristly species, recorded only on churchyard walls at Auchtermuchty and Leuchars, and at Kincaig cliffs.

Glomeridae - pill millipedes

Can roll into a ball.

Stygioglomeris crinita: A rare subterranean species known at 3 sites, on limestone.

Chordeumatida

Craspedosoma rawlinsii: Local, in four wetland sites.

Nanogona polydesmoides: Widespread in calcareous sites.

Melogona gallica: Riverside Park, Glenrothes; one of only two certain sites in Scotland.

Melogona scutellare: Sparse, in woodland leaf-litter.

Nemasoma varicorne: Kenly Den, under dead bark.

Julida - snake millipedes

In leaf-litter and top-soil.

Proteroiulus fuscus: Common under bark.

Choneoiulus palmatus: At Carlingnose reserve and Falkland, and in green-houses. A nationally rare species.

Nopoiulus kochii: Lundin Links; one of only three out-door Scottish sites; a nationally rare species.

Blaniulus guttulatus: Widespread in soil, especially near the coast.

Archiboreoiulus pallidus: Scarce, in topsoil.

Boreoiulus tenuis: Widespread in natural and disturbed calcareous sites.

Ommatoiulus sabulosus: Abundant on coastal dunes and inland heaths; sporadic elsewhere.

Tachypodoiulus niger: Widespread in woods and gardens; very occasionally swarms in large numbers and enters houses.

Cylindroiulus britannicus: Common in dead wood.

Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus: In one garden, E Fife.

Cylindroiulus latestriatus: Widespread on coastal grassland.

Cylindroiulus punctatus: Common in woods.

Cylindroiulus salicivorus: Green-houses, St Andrews.

Cylindroiulus vulnerarius: Green-houses, St Andrews.

Allajulus nitidus: Scarce, in topsoil.

Julus scandinavicus: Widespread in woods, gardens and grassland.

Ophiulus pilosus: Widespread in woods, gardens and grassland.

Brachyiulus pusillus: Sparse in woodland and coastal grass.

Polydesmida - flat-backed millipedes

In leaf-litter and top-soil.

Polydesmus angustus: Commonest of the flat-backed millipedes.

Polydesmus denticulatus: Local, mainly grassland.

Polydesmus inconstans: Local in woods and gardens.

Brachydesmus superus: Widespread in woods, gardens etc.

Macrosternodesmus palicola: A rare subterranean species.

Ophiodesmus albonanus: A rare subterranean species found in a few wooded dens.

Symphyla

Small white centipede-like animals with twelve pairs of legs; feed mainly on decaying vegetation. Names follow Edwards (1959): A revision of the British Symphyla. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 132, 403-439. Records from Bagnall (1913): The Scottish Symphyla. Scottish Naturalist, 1913, 182-85.

Scutigera immaculata Newport: Probably widespread.

Symphylellopsiopsis subnuda (Hansen): 1 of May.

Symphylella vulgaris (Hansen): 1 of May.