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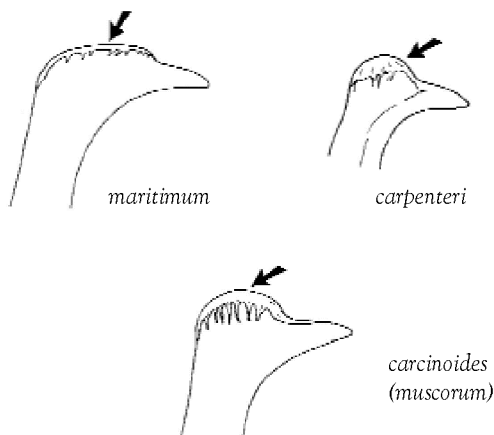
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**One** year on since the first *Newsletter*. In that time yet another species has been added to the British list.

*Microbisium brevifemoratum* noted in the first *Newsletter* was found at a National Nature Reserve, where it was extracted from *Sphagnum*. The site is a remnant ancient bog which suggests that the species has been present since the end of the last ice age. In the rest of Europe it is found in Fennoscandia in the same type of habitat. I recently obtained some specimens from Norway and these will be used in the planned revised *Linnean Synopsis*. I await Dick Jone's expert hand to produce an illustration of the little beast.

So, you see species new to Britain can still turn up - just look in the right place and use the appropriate extraction techniques and who knows what will be found.

Editor



Galea of our three *Neobisium* species.

## Keep Them Coming

**T**here has not been a huge spate of records since the rebirth of the *Newsletter*, but several new people have provided useful additional records. In all some 70 odd records were received. My thanks to all those who have contributed over the last year or so including Martin Cawley, Daniel Hackett, David Porter, Dick Jones, Andrew Godfrey, Daniel Hackett, Howard Mendel, Edward Milner, John Partridge, Ray Ruffell, Teddy Whitehead and no doubt others who I have failed to list! (My apologies). A thank you to all of you who have and I hope will provided records and specimens.

This takes our data-set to 5631 records. Over the past couple of years two relative large sources of data came from the collections at Merseyside Museums, nearly 80, and The Royal Scottish Museum, over 160. It would be interesting to know of other Museum collections which are yet to be discovered - at least by me. To date I have records from Museums at Bristol, Colchester, Doncaster, Exeter, Ipswich, Leicester, Norwich, Sheffield, University Oxford. If anyone knows of other collections in public or university domains do let me know. By examining the records I will of course effectively curate their collection so everyone benefits.

## New Synopsis and Key

**Yes!** A revised version of the Synopsis is being worked on. The old one is being currently worked up and having the species new to Britain added and the *Chelifer cancrioides* account and illustration altered. Obviously the key will be changed to fit in the two new comers and, hopefully, improved, making it easier to use. In addition, the long promised, but less technical, key should be out early in 2000. Yes, I know I've said this before but I hope to find a window in my writing, editing and publishing schedule to get it out and distributed it to all of you. And, of course the need to include the species new to Britain.

# An Analysis of Records

**I**t occurred to me that for a relatively under recorded group like Pseudoscorpions it would be interesting to analyse the number of records received rather than just the number of squares that each species has been recorded from. Recorders who consistently provide records, even of the common ones have been particularly helpful in this respect. I am a stout believer in CAMS and feel that they are too often not recorded, often eclipsed by the more exotic species. However, Common As Muck Species are important especially if you have regular records. They can, for example, show up trends in the decline or otherwise of the species which would easily go unnoticed. Such changes in the fortunes of species can then lead to an early warning of habitat change, whether natural or 'unnatural' (people are arguably natural so their effects on the World could be regarded as similarly 'natural'). Of course many do not bother to record or send such CAMS records in, but they should be encouraged to do so.

Enough of that lecture, searching the data base provided details of how many records had been obtained over the years from the various Vice Counties. Even looking at the numbers was interesting particularly if you were to look at your particular favourite VC(s). To provide what I thought

might be a more interesting view the accompanying graphic was produced.

It is often said that when the records of a group are plotted you often get, not a distribution map of species, but rather one of the recorders and their jaunts out! Well, the graphic probably emphasises this idea! (bearing in mind that the data-set is likely to be incomplete because people tend to say "Oh, another *Neobisium carcinoides* (yes, it really does go by this name and not *Neobisium muscorum* despite our feeling the latter is a better name) I'll not bother send the information off.

It would be interesting to carry out similar exercises on the records of other groups – even those which we supposedly think are fairly well understood.

Clearly the SE of England is a hot spot! Perhaps this will spur some of us to look in those areas with very few records. Not only look for the commoner species but also in habitats that might house the less common types. It is clear that many of the latter are probably more widely distributed but have just not been looked for. So, instead of soil and leaf litter, try the odd farm building, birds' nest (remember *Larca lata* turned up here), and even get your feet wet in a *Sphagnum* bog (*Microbisium brevifemoratum*).

But ... Please don't forget the CAMS too – send me the records what ever they are.

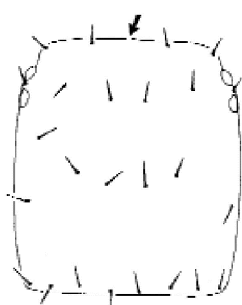
## A Plea For Copy

**I**f any of you have any suggestions, ideas, comments, interesting records, experiences (pseudoscorpion wise only!) then don't hesitate to send me some copy.



*carpenteri*

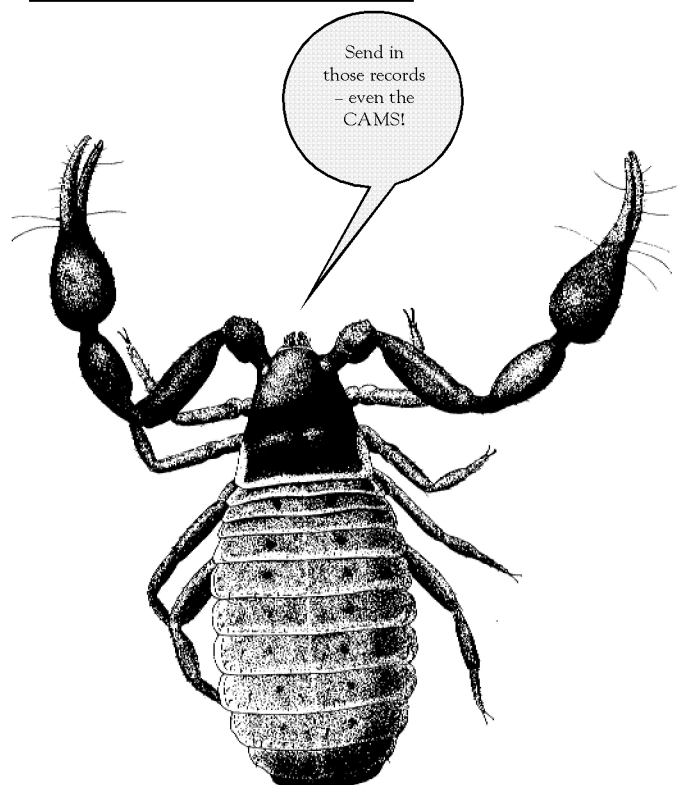
*maritimum*



*carcinoides*

Cephalothoraxes of our three *Neobisium* species. **Note** the posterior marginal row of setae. Remember too that there is some variation!

*Dactylochelifer latreillei* original drawings by Richard Jones (modified from *Lin. Soc. Synopsis* No. 40).





An Analysis of Pseudoscorpion Records  
by Vice County



This graphic includes mainland Britain, the Channel Islands and the Scottish and Outer Isles. Ireland has been omitted as it will be dealt with at another time.

The number for each Vice County is shown blurred due to the perspective view of the country.