

FIELD REPORT

Location:	Grid Ref:	Date:
Government House Grounds Onchan		19OCT24
Access and Site Features:	Vegetation:	
Woodland, fields and gardens of Government House. Including well tended gardens, rock piles, compost heaps.	Mature trees, gardens including roses, shrubs and assorted plants.	

A late season foray of the woodland, fields and gardens of Government House. Our thanks to His Excellency and Lady Lorimer for allowing us to explore the grounds on a calm, sunny and mild autumn day, and to Government House staff for facilitating the visit.

Some specimens were collected for later microscopic examination where field identification was not possible. As well as the species listed below, the presence of springtails, bristletails, mites, slugs, snails, woodlice, rove beetles, parasitoid wasps, crane flies and heteropteran bugs were noted. Most of these were not collected but some were photographed.

Ants (identification by Sue Harvey)

Lasius niger

Arachnids (Identification by Kate Hawkins)

Erigone atra - a tiny money spider (family Linyphiidae), a male

Tenuiphantes cristatus – a male and a female of this money spider species.

Tenuiphantes flavipes – female money spider

Lepthyphantes minutus – male money spider

All the above are typical of leaf litter, crevices in dead wood and similar hidden places which hold moisture. *Erigone*, like most money spiders, is a uniform dark



colour, whereas *Tenuiphantes*/*Lepthyphantes* spiders have a definite pattern of black, brown and cream markings on the abdomen which can help in identification. However, adult spiders with mature genitalia are still key to determination of the species.

Ero furcata – a male pirate spider (family Mimetidae). This distinctive little spider specialises in eating other spiders! One of two species of *Ero* found so far in the Isle of Man.

Metellina segmentata – an orbweb spider, very common in the Isle of Man in low vegetation and shrubs. A male spider was identifiable under a hand lens (it's down to the density of hairs on the underside of the front legs), so was not collected.

Other spiders were noted, but not collected as they were immature. These included wolf spiders (*Pardosa* species) and long-jawed orbweb spiders (*Pachygnatha* sp.)

Opilio canestrinii – a very long-legged species of harvestman which appears to be a relatively recent arrival in the British Isles, spreading north and west from East Anglia. Sue Harvey has previously found *O. canestrinii* in the Isle of Man. It may be one to watch out for in case it shows invasive tendencies. Supposed to be easy enough to identify in the field: body 6-8 mm long, male with very dark femurs which contrast with light brown/orange coxae and 'knees'. Females have legs with alternating light and dark rings. Has a habit of resting on walls



Beetles (identified by Steve Crellin and Kate Hawkins)

Chrysolina banksi – a handsome and quite large metallic bronze-coloured beetle of the family Chrysomelidae (leaf beetles). Found amongst the bramble and vegetation at the edge of a cut meadow. Apparently feeds on ribwort plantain and plants of the mint family (Lamiaceae).

Leaf beetle,
Chrysolina banksi



[Carabid beetles awaiting identification]

A possible *Stenus* sp. – a small goggle-eyed rove beetle

Earthworms (identification by Sue Harvey)

Allolobophora chlorotica
Aporrectodea longa
Aporrectodea rosea
Bimastos rubidus
Dendrobaena attemsi
Dendrobaena hortensis
Dendrobaena octahedra
Eisenia fetida
Lumbricus festivus
Lumbricus rubellus

Earwigs (identification by Sue Harvey)

Forficula auricularia Common Earwig

Flatworms (identified by Sue Harvey)

Parakontikia ventrolineata

Arthurdendyus triangulatus - New Zealand Flatworm (unfortunately, as it is non-native, highly invasive and eats earthworms). We found several small dark specimens of

flatworms and thought at first they were a different species, but Sue looked into this a bit further and discovered that we were seeing juvenile specimens.

New Zealand Flatworm
Arthurdendyus triangulatus



Flies (Diptera) (identification by Steve Crellin)

Lonchoptera - a pointed(or spear)-winged fly (family Lonchopteridae) Photographed by Paul Quellin

Calliphora vomitoria – blow flies on a rabbit carcass.

Blow fly
Calliphora vomitoria



Eristalis pertinax – a drone fly, one of the hoverflies (family Syrphidae), photo by Paul

Drone fly

Eristalis pertinax



Suillia bicolor – a spiny-winged fly (family Heleomyzidae).

Spiny winged fly

Suillia bicolor



Other flies photographed by Paul could not be identified to species from images alone: a possible Syrphus hoverfly, a fungus gnat of the family Sciaridae, one of the Muscoid flies and flies of the family Phoridae (hump-backed/coffin/scuttle flies – a large family).

Flies recorded by Steve Crellin (new recording in bold text).

Anisopodidae	<i>Sylvicola cinctus</i>	Wood Gnat
Anthomyiidae	<i>Pegomya bicolor</i>	Root fly (larvae mine leaves)
Dryomyzidae	<i>Dryomyza anilis</i>	Dryomyzid fly
Lauxaniidae	<i>Sapromyza albiceps</i>	Lauxaniid fly
Lonchopteridae	<i>Lonchoptera lutea</i>	Pointed-wing fly
Muscidae	<i>Polietes lardarius</i>	House fly
Muscidae	<i>Phaonia tuguriorum</i>	House fly
Platypezidae	<i>Platypeza hirticeps/aterrima</i>	Flat-footed fly
Trichoceridae	<i>Trichocera hiemalis</i>	Winter gnat
Heleomyzidae	<i>Suillia bicolor</i>	Spiny-winged fly
Dolichopodidae	<i>Campsicnemus curvipes</i>	Long-legged fly
Limoniidae	<i>Dicranomyia chorea</i>	crane fly
Limoniidae	<i>Dicranomyia modesta</i>	crane fly
Limoniidae	<i>Erioconopa trivialis</i>	crane fly
Limoniidae	<i>Limonia nubeculosa</i>	crane fly
Limoniidae	<i>Paradelphomyia senilis</i>	crane fly (New)
Pediciidae	<i>Dicranota claripennis</i>	hairy-eyed crane fly
Scathophagidae	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>	yellow dung fly
Sciaridae	<i>Phytosciara flavipes</i>	black fungus gnat (yellow)
Tipulidae	<i>Tipula confusa</i>	crane fly
Tipulidae	<i>Tipula pagana</i>	crane fly
Trichoptera	<i>Crunoecia irrorata</i>	Caddisfly caught from vegetation around the small spring on the edge of the meadow.

Millipedes and Centipedes (identification by Sue Harvey)

Centipedes:

Geophilomorpha

Geophilus flavus

Scolopendromorpha

Cryptops hortensis

Lithobiomorpha

Lamyctes emarginatus

Lithobius forficatus

Lithobius variegatus – a stripey-legged dark red and very active centipede

Centipede

Lithobius variegatus



Millipedes:

Chlordeuma proximum
Cylindroiulus britannicus
Cylindroiulus punctatus
Nanogoma polydesmoides
Ophiulus germanicus
Ophiulus pilosus
Polydesmus Augustus
Polydesmus
asthenestratus
Proteroiulus fuscus
Tachypodoiulus niger
Glomeris marginatus –
pill millipede, which rolls
up like the pill woodlouse



White legged snake
millipede

Tachypodoiulus niger

Other millipedes were photographed by Paul but could not be identified to species without a specimen.

Slugs (identification by Sue Harvey)

Ambigolimax parvepenis
Arion flagellus Green-soled Slug
Arion owenii Tawny Soil Slug (no previous records from IOM as far as I am aware)
Arion rufus Large Red Slug
Deroceras reticulatum Netted Field Slug
Lehmannnia marginata Tree Slug
Limacus maculatus Green Cellar Slug
Tandonia budapestensis Budapest Keeled Slug

Tree slug
Lehmannia marginata



Wasps (Hymenoptera) (Identification by Steve Crellin)

Paravespula vulgaris – Common wasp photographed by Paul feeding on the rabbit carcass.



Common wasp

Paravespula vulgaris

Woodlice

Oniscus asellus

Philoscis spp.

Porcellio scaber

Trichoniscus pusillus agg.

Philoscis spp.

Porcellio scaber – Common Rough Woodlouse

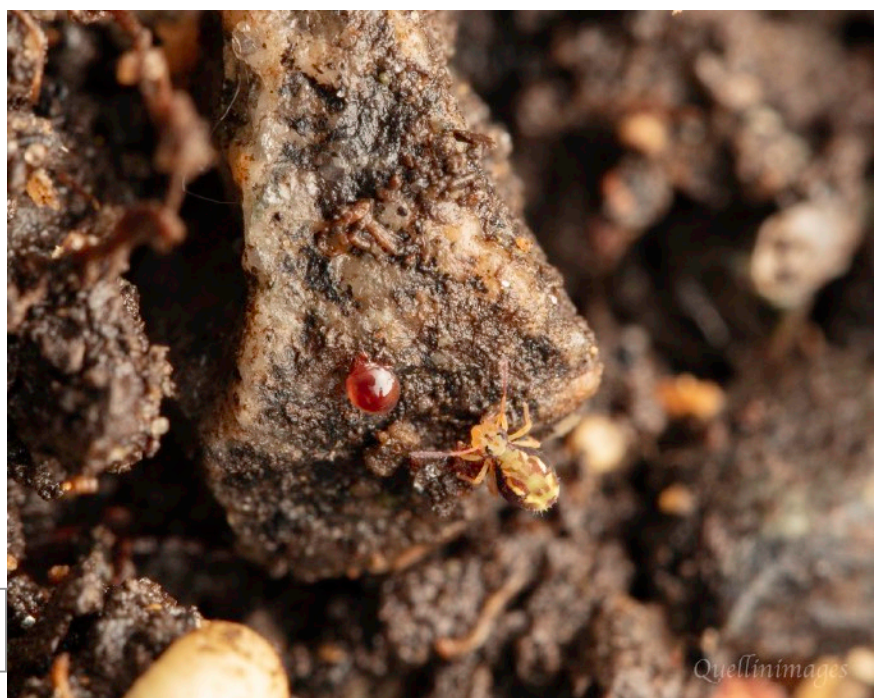
Common Rough Woodlouse
Porcellio scaber



Other animals seen

These included: springtails, bristletails, Mites, slugs, snails, woodlice, rove beetles, parasitoid wasps, crane flies and heteropteran bugs were noted.

Springtail and mite



Springtail

*Dicyrtomina
saundersi*



Bristletail



Report Compiled by:

Kate Hawkins

Date:

03NOV24