

## The large Millipede *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* in the Avon floodplain near Fladbury, Worcestershire.

Gary Farmer

*Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* is a large millipede measuring up to 30mm in length with a more or less constant diameter from head to tail (Blower 1985). It has a distribution inland concentrated in the south and east of England with coastal records reaching to north-east England and a scattering of records from Wales, Scotland and Ireland and appears to have not been recorded in Worcestershire. Lee (2006) notes that it is synanthropic being found in cultivated ground, churchyards and parks.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 I found a relatively large, truncated millipede under deadwood at Mill Bank Meadows near Fladbury. The pieces of wood had washed on to the meadows during flooding. When I first saw the millipede I thought I had damaged it and broken off its tail end because of its constant diameter along its full length and also its lack of telson projection (tail) (01).



01 & 02 *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* 09.04.20 Mill Bank.  
G. Farmer.

On closer examination I could see the millipede had rings along its body which looked like polished bronze (02). I found several of the same species I identified as *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus*. Mill Bank is an area of permanent grassland on the River Avon floodplain and is surrounded by a sea of maize, so there is plenty of cultivated land. Presumably the millipedes had been washed onto the grassland with debris during the extensive flooding.

### References

Blower, J.G. 1985. Millipedes. *Synopses of the British Fauna* No 35. The Linnean Society, London.  
Lee, P. *Atlas of the Millipedes (Diplopoda) of Britain and Ireland*. Biological Records Centre. Pensoft Publishers, Bulgaria.

### Images

01. *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* 09.04.20 Mill Bank G. Farmer  
02 *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus* 09.04.20 Mill Bank G. Farmer