
The Centipede *Lithobius celer* (Chilopoda: Lithobiidae) in Wisconsin

Dreux J. Watermolen

Bureau of Integrated Science Services, Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

The centipede *Lithobius celer* Bollman 1888 has been reported from Wisconsin only one time. Chamberlin (1911) provisionally referred specimens collected from unspecified Wisconsin and Michigan localities to this species, with considerable doubt since neither was a "fully-grown male." Subsequent investigators (e.g., Matthews 1935, Crabill 1958) did not report *L. celer* from the state. While examining specimens collected as part of an on-going prairie ecology study, I discovered a *L. celer* specimen from southern Wisconsin. The specimen was collected in a pitfall trap at Hawkhill Prairie, Dane County (T9N, R8E, Sec. 5) on 21 August 1986 by A. Liskan.

Hawkhill Prairie is one of the least disturbed, dry-mesic prairie remnants in southern Wisconsin (R.A. Henderson, pers. comm.). It consists of approximately 40 acres of prairie adjacent to oak-hickory (*Quercus* spp.-*Carya ovata*) woodlands. Succession of woody vegetation (primarily red cedar [*Juniperus virginiana*]) is occurring throughout a large portion (approximately 75%) of the prairie community. Approximately 8 acres of the site has been kept open since 1978 by the regular use of fire. The *L. celer* specimen was collected in this open area. The site is situated on a steep south-facing slope with soils comprised primarily of glacial till overlying limestone bedrock.

Identification of the specimen was made using the key provided by Summers (1979). The dorsal body plates (tergites) of some species of Lithobiomorpha have posterior projections. The seventh tergite lacks such projections in the genus *Lithobius*. In lithobiomorphs, the anterior margin of the fused bases of the maxillipeds bear teeth (prosternal teeth), the number of which vary interspecifically. *L. celer* has five or more of these on each maxilliped. Round pores are found on the coxal segment of the anal leg in a single row. *L. celer* is distinguished from the closely related *L. forficatus* by the presence of a single spur (lateral armature) on the posterior coxae (Fig. 1).

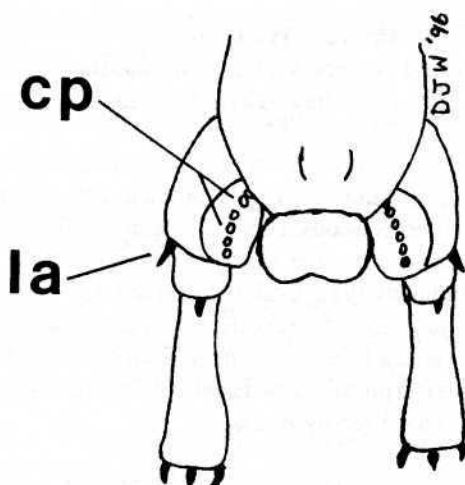


Figure 1. Ventral view of posterior segments and anal legs (coxa, trochanter, and prefemur) of *Lithobius celer* showing coxal pores (cp) and lateral armature (la).

The type locality of *L. celer* is in Arkansas (Bollman 1888), and the species is definitely known from several southern states. Kevan (1983) listed Michigan and Minnesota as localities for *L. celer*, but Snider (1991) did not report it from Michigan, and I have found no published records from Minnesota. Summers, et al. (1980) did not find it in Illinois. Kevan (1983) suggested that northern records of this species might refer merely to a form of *L. forficatus* (Linnaeus 1758) or some other species, but provided no evidence to suggest this to be the case. The record reported here suggests the presence of *L. celer* as a component of the Wisconsin fauna. Further collecting, particularly in the southern half of the state, should provide additional evidence of its occurrence here.

Acknowledgments

R.A. Henderson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, provided the specimen and information on Hawkhill Prairie.

Literature Cited

- Bollman, C.H. 1888. A preliminary list of the myriapoda of Arkansas, with descriptions of new species. *Entomologica Americana* 4:1-8.
- Chamberlin, R.V. 1911. The lithobiomorpha of Wisconsin and neighboring states. *Can. Entomol.* 43:98-104.
- Crabill, R.E., Jr. 1958. On a collection of centipedes from Wisconsin (Chilopoda). *Entomol. News* 69:93-99.
- Kevan, D.K.McE. 1983. A preliminary survey of known and potentially Canadian and Alaskan centipedes (Chilopoda). *Can. J. Zool.* 61:2938-2955.
- Matthews, D.C. 1935. The Chilopoda of Wisconsin. Ph.D. Thesis. Univ. Wisconsin, Madison.
- Snider, R.E. 1991. Updated species lists and distribution records for the Diplopoda and Chilopoda of Michigan. *Michigan Acad.* 24:177-194.
- Summers, G. 1979. An illustrated key to the Chilopoda of the North-Central Region of the United States. *J. Kansas Entomol. Soc.* 52:690-700.
- Summers, G., J.A. Beatty and N. Magnuson. 1980. A checklist of Illinois centipedes (Chilopoda). *Great Lakes Entomol.* 13:241-257.