

*World Distribution*

*B. superus* has a wide distribution in Europe ranging from Spain and Portugal to Finland and Russia, as far east as Moscow, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and throughout Italy. It is present in the Canary Islands and Madeira; on the isles of the western Mediterranean such as Sardinia, Sicily, Capri, Ischia, and in parts of Tunisia, where the species has probably been introduced. It has also been found on Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth, on Faeroe Island and on St. Mary's Island.

This millipede is generally associated with farmland, both arable and pasture, with marshy ground and with scrubland generally, but it avoids large forests and the higher altitudes. In the eastern and northern areas of its range *B. superus* becomes a more synanthropic species, inhabiting parks, gardens, market gardens, cemeteries, greenhouses and hothouses. It is sometimes found in mole holes and caves in Spain, France, Belgium, Ireland, England, Germany, Italy and perhaps in Switzerland. It is introduced in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia near human settlements. In the United States it has been collected in North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Michigan, where it is often abundant in cultivated areas. It has several times been described as a new species. In the southern hemisphere, the species has occurred in Argentina at Saavedra, La Plata in the province of Buenos Aires, and on the island of Juan Fernandez at Mas-a-Tierra, where one specimen only, with 18 segments, was discovered.

On the basis of these facts, the introduction of *B. superus* to New Zealand is not surprising and it will almost certainly be found in suitable habitats throughout the country.

**2. *Ophiulus verruculiger* Verhoeff, 1910**

Te Kuiti: Virginia Cave, on mud bank 110ft down, 19.iv.1959, 3 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (B. M. May). Measurements of the specimens are as follows: ♂, length 17.0 mm, breadth 1.0 mm, number of segments 48 (-3); ♂, 16.0/1.1/49(-4); ♂, 16.0/1.0/49(-4); ♀, 21.0/1.7/51(-3); ♀, 19.0/1.6/50(-3); ♀, 18.0/1.5/51(-3); ♀, 18.0/1.5/49(-3); ♀, 17.0/1.4/49(-3).

The specimens from the New Zealand cave are smaller than the smallest European specimens. Verhoeff has given the following measurements for *O. verruculiger*: ♂♂, length 19.5–29.5 mm, with 58–67 segments; ♀♀ length 27.0–46.0 mm with 63–69 segments.

This cave population has very similar measurements to the smallest specimens of *O. pilosus* (= *fallax*) Newport, 1842, a species likewise present in New Zealand. The very slender males are grey with black spots near the opening of the repugnatorial pores. The first two or three segments have only a few striae on the metazonites. The distal margin of the metazonites has one row of long setae. The telson is produced in a dorso-median tail and the anal valves have long setae.

The best character for separation of the two species of *Ophiulus* is in the copulatory legs or gonopods. In *O. verruculiger* (Fig. 2) the promerite is without an interior lobe. In the posterior gonopod or opisthomerite the short velum on the anterior side is without parallel striae and its outer margin is set with numerous strong teeth. In *O. pilosus* (Fig. 3) the promerite has a large, well developed interior lobe. The anterior margin of the densely striated velum is smooth, without teeth. Other good differences exist in the solenomerite, in the phylacum on the outer side of the opisthomerite and in the cover-lobe. A drawing of the gonopods of *O. pilosus* from Germany may be found in Schubart (1934, Figs. 425, 426) and of *O. verruculiger* from Italy in Verhoeff (1910, Pl. 3, figs. 38–41) and in Attems (1927, Figs. 17–177).

The gnathochilarium of the two species likewise offers distinguishing characters. In *O. verruculiger* ♂, the stipites have a well defined group of about six