

Arthropods 5: The Myriopods

I. Introduction

A. Representatives

B. Species diversity

II. Features in common

A. Body shape

B. Head features

C. Appendages

D. Internal features

III. Ecology

IV. Chilopoda – Centipedes

A. Number of legs per segment

B. Feeding behavior

C. House centipedes

V. Diplopoda – Millipedes

A. Number of legs per segment

B. Feeding behavior

C. Response to disturbance

VI. Evolutionary origins

Questions:

1. How does the species diversity of the Myriopods compare to those of the other arthropod subphyla that we have discussed?
2. How does the body shape of the myriopods compare to that of the insects? The chelicerates?
3. Are the legs of the myriopods uniramous or biramous? Explain.
4. What is the most important morphological difference between the Chilopods and the Diplopods?

5. Contrast the feeding behavior of the Chilopods to that of the Diplopods.
6. What are house centipedes? Are they pests or welcome guests?
7. How do millipedes respond to disturbance?
8. Did the myriopods evolve before or after the other groups of arthropods?