

## Millipedes

### Typical Location When Observed:

Outdoors, usually found under rocks, leaves or other cover. Occasionally enter basement areas during spring and early fall.

**Geographic Location:** Potentially statewide but most common in irrigated lawns and moist wooded areas.



A julid millipede, *Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus*

**Importance/Damage:** A minor nuisance invader of buildings in spring and fall. Some species may feed on soft, overripe fruit (strawberries, tomatoes) that rests on soil.



A blaniulid millipede, *Blaniulus guttulatus*

**Distinguishing Features:** The julid millipedes are generally wormlike. Mature individuals are brown to nearly black and may exceed 3 cm. However, young stages are smaller and lighter. Two pairs of legs occur on all body segments, but the legs are small and directed beneath the body so that they may be difficult to see.

**Related Species:** Although most millipedes that people observe are cylindrical and wormlike, other millipede orders have somewhat different appearance. The polydesmid millipedes are more flattened and have more prominent legs that extend to the side. The minute duff millipedes have a very different body form that is more compact and covered with dense hairs.

**Resources:** Millipedes are generally covered in Extension Fact Sheet 5.552, *Millipedes, Centipedes and Sowbugs*.

**Class:** Diplopoda

**Order:** Julida

**Families:** Julidae, Blaniulidae, Parajulidae

Actual Length

Version: July 30, 2009