

Newport Forest

August 14 2003

2:45 - 7:15 pm

**Weather:** prec. 0 mm; calm; sun/cloud; LM 32 C; FCF 28 C

**Purpose:** maintenance

**Participants:** Kee, Steve

I picked up Logan late at the rez owing to a late start on the afternoon. We stopped at the tree station to weed for an hour, then went down to the trailer to gather tools for a stair job near the top of the HB. The last few feet of the RST going up the HB are nearly vertical and if there's one place that could use a few steps, this was it. It took nearly two hours to get the steps in, not counting a longish break in the middle. Even in the woods it was rather hot and the work was fairly heavy.

During the break we spotted what appeared to be a very large wasp. The name "horntail" came to me from our A'nowaghi days. I made a careful note of the field marks and these were adequate to ID the insect, a Pigeon Horntail. It was a female on her last legs, flying to the bark of the dead Bitternut tree, then falling down the trunk. Then climbing/flying back up. In the end, she got her ovipositor under the bark to lay her eggs. She would probably be dead by nightfall.

I checked the trees in both cores. None showing any real stress yet.

**New species:**

Pigeon Horntail

*Tremex columba*

HB/bnch