

Newport Forest

October 25 2004

4:30 - 6:15 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; overcast; E < 20 kmh; LM 14; FCF 14 C

Purpose: cougar research; lichen collecting

Participants: Kee, Erin Carroll

Before coming to Newport Forest, Erin and I had driven down to the Tinline farm just on the other side of Moraviantown. We cleared some fallen brush from around the (cougar) hair trap and replaced the urine in the scent dispenser. I told Tinline that we would have the trap out by next spring.

On the way to the property, we passed the Ovecka place, where I stopped to interview Ms Ovecka, who was quite forthcoming about her experiences. In the year 2000 she had repeated sightings (winter) of a large black cat with a long, roopy tail in the vicinity of a lone barn across the road and set back some 100 m therefrom. She said some men came in three trucks (one bearing a cage) that spring. She does not know whether they caught the animal. Her closest sighting involved the animal walking down the road in front of her house. "It's head was bigger than mine," she said.

On site, I filled the feeders and then spent half an hour on the trail, assisted by Erin. We then went into the old Blind Creek bed to look for the grasses that Pat saw on the previous visit. We collected many bark samples, one of which had a new lichen on it that I cannot identify. (S) The black paint lichen showed up again, this time on a twig. In one area of the old bed, we found several hundred Honey mushrooms growing, as well as one Shaggy Mane. I collected one moss that grew on Box Blder bark. (S) Erin caught a beautiful, pale green planthopper. (S)

New species

Black Nightshade

Solanum nigrum

HBF PD Oc20/04

New World Planthopper

Anormenis septentrionalis

BCF ec/KD

Phenology: one Katydid still calling