

Newport Forest

Sunday July 10 2005

12:55 - 6:30 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 53%; clear; calm; LM 33 C; FCF 28 C

Purpose: watering trees

Participants: Kee and Erin

[**Note:** Omnibus Research has given a grant of \$5000 to Dr Nina Zitani to carry out a field study of insects on the property. She will concentrate on the hymenoptera, including her specialty, Braconid (parasitic) wasps.]

Waiting for the entomologist Nina Zitani to arrive, Erin and I inspected the 45-odd milkweed plants in the vicinity of the gate, counting 16 milkweed beetles on them.

When Nina arrived presently, we drove down to the trailer and proceeded to install the two malaise traps she had brought with her. Each trap resembles a mesh tent with a collecting bottle at the top. A mesh curtain across the middle of the tent prevents insects from flying through, directing their escape efforts upward.

One trap was erected at the edge of the LM right next to the BCF, about 60 m from the track. The other was placed inside a small clearing we made just beyond the drift pile where the TRT goes into the forest, winding up and to the right. Both traps took a good hour to install. Nina instructed us how to change bottles and label the samples thus extracted. She left two refills in the trailer. The labels should follow this example:

“LM J110-29 LM”

Each label must be written in pencil on a special paper slip that is inserted into the bottle. The other label must say exactly the same thing and be affixed to the bottle itself.

After Nina left, we only had time to water the trees by the gate, in the TS and in the SC. We might have gone back for another load of water, but Erin developed a nagging headache, brought on by the excessive heat.

Note: Nina will be in KY until mid-August. We must keep the sample bottles until then.