

Newport Forest

Sunday July 31 2005

1:00 - 7:00 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 48%; clear; calm; LM 31 C; FCF 26 C

Purpose: to collect insects

Participants: Nina Zitani, Kee

Waiting for Nina, I watered at the gate and TS, but did no other watering. I want to “starve” the young trees a bit, forcing their roots further down.

We were pleased to see many Giant Swallowtails in the LM, perhaps as many as five. In one case, two were chasing each other, presumably breeding. I filled the bird feeders, prompted by some noisy Blue Jays in the GF. (Later, a Redbelly came to eat) I went to show Nina the wasp nest in the trailer window, only to discover that “someone” had predated it. Probably raccoons. Nina nevertheless succeeded in catching two of the wasps hanging around the old nest site. As far as I could tell, these were identical to the ones that had built the nest. Nina promised to ID them.

We went over to inspect the malaise trap in the LM, only to find that the collecting head was askew and several small holes torn in the netting by an animal with five digits in its paws. Hmmm. Nina was upset - not at the raccoons, but the manufacturer. (She will order a new head.) Meanwhile, she removed the bottle that was there. As we were about to leave, a Grey Tree Frog began calling from nearby. She was astounded to learn we had “tree frogs.” We then went to the RL to inspect the trap in the woods nearby. This trap was in good order. She replaced the collecting bottle by a new one. Once again, the forest trap had more than twice as many insects in it than the meadow trap. (approx. 500-700)

Entering Edgar’s Trail again, we were diverted by a Hummingbird (sphinx) moth feeding on Monarda flowers. Remarkable insect! After a break in the Nook, we went down to the bridge (Steve has replaced missing deck), crossed it and went to look for Apheloria - the black and yellow millipede. No luck after turning over about ten logs. She did find a Cave Cricket under one of the logs, however. On the way back, we found a (new?) Micrathena spider and I collected it live to keep it for a few days.