

Newport Forest Wednesday July 5 2006 3:15 - 5:50 pm

Weather: prec. 12mm; RH* n/a; sun/cld; calm; LM 21C; FCF 19C

Purpose: to take a distinguished visitor on a tour

Participants: Kee & Daniel Bickel

Daniel Bickel is the curator of Entomology at the Australian National Museum. Visiting family in Detroit, he decided to spend a few days in London with us and visited the site this afternoon. We walked the two-bridge trail and the TRT. I collected a large, white/buff mushroom in the BCF during the latter walk. (S)*

We visited the RL, finding two medium-sized Spiny Softshells basking on the beach. They were slow to spot us, but they stretched their heads up, the better to see what was making that faint, creeping noise.

We sat for a long period of time in The Nook discussing conservation biology, taxonomic issues, temperate zone biodiversity and other matters relevant to the Newport Forest project. Later, at home, I showed him some of my more interesting flies taken from the malaise samples of last summer. He was able to identify several specimens on the spot. (See below.)

New species

Empididae

“Feather-legged Fly” *Rhamphomyia [longicauda]* nz/DB RL/BCF

Dolichopodidae

Condylostylid Fly *Condylostylus* sp. nz/DB RL/BCF
Neurigona sp. nz/DB RL/BCF

Xylophagidae

Coenomyia sp. nz/DB RL/BCF

supplemental:

Cecidomyiidae

Willow Cone Gall Fly *Rhabdophaga strobiloides* SB KD
(This gall was noted earlier, but not recorded.)

*best match was *Limacella irena*, but gills were free in this specimen.