

Newport Forest

Saturday August 12 2006

1:00 - 6:45pm

Weather: prec. 0mm; RH 65%; calm; clr; LM 28C; FCF 25C

Purpose: damselfly survey & check girls

Participants: Kee

After arriving I whistled a few times and the girls showed up within about ten minutes of this. They did not appear to be famished, eating half the shreddies, some of the egg sandwich, all the ritz crackers (a great favorite) and a few dog bits. In the middle of eating, Louise wandered off to chase and eat a carpenter ant! After an hour, the girls left for parts unknown.

I went down to FC, net, bottle and book in hand, to see if I could collect any new damselflies. Activity levels were low, with only occasional Ebonies flying by. I spotted a non-ebony near the far end of the bridge and captured what turned out to be a Blue-Fronted Dancer. (Although Pat had seen this sp. earlier, I neglected to record it.) Later, amid the deafening inactivity, I spotted a damselfly floating in the slow current. After retrieving it, I found it was still alive. I could not ID it until later because the sp. is not illustrated in Carmichael's book. This female had the same kind of white spot as the female Ebony, but only the distal third of the wing was dark. It turned out to be a River Jewelwing.

The girls turned out to be foraging along the shore of the creek, first downstream, then upstream. Louise ALMOST caught a frog. She dived for it, but it dived first. This adventure visibly excited her. I left after six, placing the girls in the van with the door open. Louise left almost immediately. Thelma prowled some boxes in the back before her reluctant removal. Louise had made the decision to stay, as far as I was concerned.

New species:

River Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx aequabilis</i>	FC/Br KD
Lyre-tipped Spreadwing	<i>Lestes unguiculatus</i>	Tr KD
Blue-fronted Dancer	<i>Argia apicalis</i>	Tr PD

[from Malaise sample - which included BFD & LTS, as well]

Spotted Spreadwing	<i>Lestes congener</i>	LM nz/KD J118/05
Rainbow Bluet	<i>Enallagma antennatum</i>	LM nz/KD J118/05