

Newport Forest

Thursday August 7 2008 2:05 - 6:55 pm

Weather: prec. 3 mm; RH 69%; BP 98.67 kPa; NW 0-10kh; cld/sn; T 27° C

Purpose: fish survey

Participants: Kee and Steve Logan

We spent about half an hour clearing a short trail from the creek landing to the lower rapids. The area between is choked with high veg, including Giant Ragweed and filled with cleverly concealed deadfall to trip the unwary. (Naturally, it's here that we found the Green Dragon!)

I set a minnow trap in the landing pool and Steve began fishing the pool with a small hook and worm combo. He pulled out three Pumpkinseeds in a row, each smaller than the one before. These were all released, an easy ID and already logged, in any case. He then caught what later turned out to be a pair of Bluntnose Minnows and a Brassy Minnow. I placed these in a large pickle jar of creek water. We then switched to kick samples at the lower rapids. Steve's first attempt yielded a wonderful find. I used a plastic ziploc freezer bag to examine the specimen. What an amazing sight! Bright red, turquoise, green, black and blue made up the colour scheme. The patterns were a dead match for 1st & 2nd dorsal fins and a bright orange throat, along with red and black spots along the sides also fell within the range of variation for this species and excluded all other darters. The remaining minnows (except one) were ID'd back home.

Catch:

Pumpkinseed	3 (1 sm, 1 med., 1 lg !)	line	rel.
Bluntnose Minnow	3 (2 lg, 1 med)	line	keep
Rainbow Darter	1 (male)	kicksample	rel.
Unid. Shiner	1 sm	minnow trap	keep
Brassy Minnow	1 sm	minnow trap	keep
Brassy Minnow	1 med (male?)	line	keep

New species:

Rainbow Darter	<i>Etheostoma caeruleum</i>	FC sl/KD Au07/08
Bluntnose Minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	FC sl/KD Au07/08
Brassy Minnow	<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	FC KD Au07/08

Note: From now on, the symbol T will replace the symbol LM under "Weather".