

Of Fungi, Weather and Missing Raccoons...

Newport Forest Sunday August 30 2009 2:40 - 7:45 pm

weather: prec. 34mm; RH 65%; BP 99.2 kPa; ovcst; SSW <10 kmh; T 17° C
purpose: searching for fungi
participants: Kee

When I arrived on the property, it was cool (17° C) and overcast, but by 4:00 pm, when I took the TRT, the clouds had all dissipated and the landscape became cheerier. After 34 mm of rain, it seemed appropriate to focus my attention on Fungi. The Copse, it turned out, had none.

Back at the trailer, I found a recently emerged Dog-day Cicada, as well as two grasshoppers (both Red-legs) on the trailer deck. (The trailer has always been a great source of insects, including a dozen or two new species over the years.)

I surveyed the RZ, finding far too many Black Walnuts sprouting, so I grabbed the loppers and removed 10 saplings (3-6' high) from the hectare. Surveying further east, I found most of the smaller trees planted there doing rather poorly. Is the soil different?

Walking the TRT, I noted at the RL (river landing) that MB was once again covered by water. It has yet to emerge fully this year. I came upon a small troop of Lactarius that looked like it might be *L. zonarius* (P). I sat on the bluffs bench, this time with the camera ready for the Bald Eagle. (If I had put the camera away, I'm sure it would have shown up.) On the way down the bluffs, I found a "slimy-cap" on the trail (S) and later on, a number of white vase-shaped mushrooms growing on a dead tree, probably young oysters. (S) Up on the HB (Hogsback) I found a distinctive-looking but sprawling growth of several brackets of *Lentinus* growing inside a hollow log. Later, walking the BCT, I came upon my last find of the day, a probable *Daedalopsis coinfragosa*, but very dark for that species. Nothing new in the fungus Dept. this time around.

By the time I got back to the trailer, the sun was bright and warm, but the wind had shifted to the north. However, it was warm enough to carry out the bee protocol once again. In the midst of the count, what I thought was a Summer azure flitted by, then alighted on a leaf to reveal its true identity, an Eastern Tailed Blue. I also spotted an odd-looking bee fly with a light brown abdomen traversed by narrow brown stripes.

A Chipmunk visited the maple tray and, later, so did the young Red Squirrel. I had supper in the Nook, waiting for raccoons to show up. None had by sundown, so I left. Presumably, Two-stripe and her kits are no longer in the area, whatever that means. A Cottontail said goodbye from the road as I left.

phenology: Asters in bloom; very few mosquitoes active; day-crickets calling

new species:

Yellow-banded Tachinid *Belvosia [grandis]* LM kd/SC/SM Au15/09

The following Syrphid flies were identified By Andrew Young (U of Guelph) from the malaise samples taken by Nina Zitani in the summer of 2005. They will be added to the master list as soon as I have the sample information (date/locale) from Andy.

Syrphinae

Chrysotoxum pubescens
Eupeodes latifasciatus
Eupeodes pomus
Melanostoma mellium
Ocyrtamus fascipennis
Ocyrtamus fuscipennis
Platycheirus immarginatus
Syrphus knabi
Syrphus rectus
Syrphus ribesii
Toxomerus geminatus
Toxomerus marginatus
Xanthogramma flavipes

Eristalinae

Chalcosyrphus nemorum
Eristalis transversa
Helophilus fasciatus
Pterallastes thoracicus
Rhingia nasica
Sphegina campanulata
Xylota quadrimaculata
Xylota subfasciata

bee protocol:

group today last week

HB 20 31
BB 20 18
OB 0 0
SW 0 1
LW 1 6
SF 3 4
LF 2 6

Perhaps the lower air temperature accounts for the reduced numbers of some groups

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



At last the sun came out

(click on image to enlarge)



This year's rose hips look particularly tasty

(click on image to enlarge)



Mystery Lactarius (*L. zonarius* would be a find)