

Collecting Soil Samples

Newport Forest Sunday November 29 2009 2:30 - 5:00 pm

weather: Prec. 7 mm; RH 89%; BP 97.6 kPa; calm; ovcast; T 9° C
purpose: to collect soil samples, clean up site
participants: Pat, Kee

We were greeted by the Red-tailed Hawk soaring over Fleming Creek Forest (FCF) as we drove in through grey and uncertain weather. While Pat worked in the trailer, I went down to the creek to collect a pail of water for infusions of three soil samples. We walked to the river to collect the first soil sample from the rapids, noting a profusion of animal tracks on the soft mud of Mussel Beach (MB), including fresh coyote tracks. (See below)

On the way back we collected a second soil sample from the dry bottom of Vernal Pond C (Blind Creek bed) and a third sample from the Lower Meadow (LM). Light intermittent rain began to fall.

We brought back a good deal of "stuff" from the trailer and continued the cleanup of the tree station, sorting the construction materials into usable wood for us and burnable wood for Edgar's stove.

We had to use the DLH technique to leave the property without getting stuck. (Don't ask.)

birds: (6)

Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Canada Goose (LM); Downy Woodpecker (GF); Mourning Dove (Tr); Red-tailed Hawk (FCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

new species:

'Red Aphid' Uroleucon sp. NF SM J130/09

[from Marshall's list -- previously missed]

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



coyote tracks by river are exactly in mid range for coyote forepaw dimensions

(click on image to enlarge)



hay infusions of three soil samples

A hay infusion is like a "microbial-amplifier," causing protozoan and micro-animal species to proliferate, thanks to bacterial blooms. Timothy hay, creek water and sealer jars were all sterilized and inocula from the three soil samples were added to the respective jars. Pipettes are for aeration to counter effects of anaerobic decomposition. It takes about 2-3 days for the jars get 'stinky.'