

Newport Forest Sunday November 14 2010

4:00 - 5:10 pm

Weather: prec. 5 mm; RH 81%; BP 101.4 kPa; ovcs W 10-20 kmh; T 4° C

Purpose: to collect another sample from Lower Rapids

Participants: Kee, Bob Strawhorn, Adam Strawhorn

Before arriving (rather late) at Newport Forest, I took Bob Strawhorn and his son Adam down to the Moraviantown Reservation where Bob had agreed to give a demonstration of his 1874 Sharps Buffalo Gun (replica) to interested Native hunters. We ended up with about 7 of us in Steve Logan's trailer having corn soup, while Bob told us about the rifle. It represented an intermediate stage in the evolution of modern, breech-loading rifles from muskets. (See image below) We then went into the damp cold outside and shot at a target with traditional bows, compound bows, a modern crossbow, and then Bob's rifle. The report was about as loud as a modern hunting rifle, but it made an enormous cloud of gray smoke. (It shoots a cartridge that is hand-loaded with black powder.)

Bob is an interesting character, a history-buff, expert machinist and gunsmith who was born here in London, but was raised by his dad in Arizona. Bob's last name comes from a Cherokee Grandfather.

We left Steve's with enough time to patrol Fleming Line for illegal hunters that neighbour Randy Ovecka had been complaining about to the MNR. We didn't see any trucks, so we went down to the trailer, where I had time to run down to the creek rapids to get a new sample there. After a brief visit to the river, we changed cards in the trail cam and closed up camp.

Back on the road, we met up with Richard Janik, owner of the property next to Newport Forest. Richard mentioned that a deer had been shot by "jack-lighters" Friday night in Newport Forest's West Meadow near his property line. He didn't know if the carcass had been retrieved yet or not.* We weren't about to go looking for it, as the sun was setting and the air was getting colder by the minute. If the carcass is still there, it is probably already half-eaten by coyotes. (Nature takes care of its own, one way or another.)

In the foregoing material we have a strange blend of history and property management issues. For me the most important recent development was the find of amazing micro-diversity in the Fleming Creek rapids. Many hours of intensive examination of these samples has given us a new window on the Cladophoran (rock hair) micro-community. More to come on that later.

Examining the trail cam card later at home, I was pleased to see two images of deer, a healthy-looking doe by day and an 8-point buck by night (See below.)

*According to Steve, if you don't gut and drain the carcass within an hour or two, it's "no good" after that. If hunters were scared off the carcass, they likely wouldn't return for it. Richard said that the MNR may have retrieved it for a forensic examination to examine any slugs or evidence that might help identify (and charge) the shooters. Or they may not have. . .

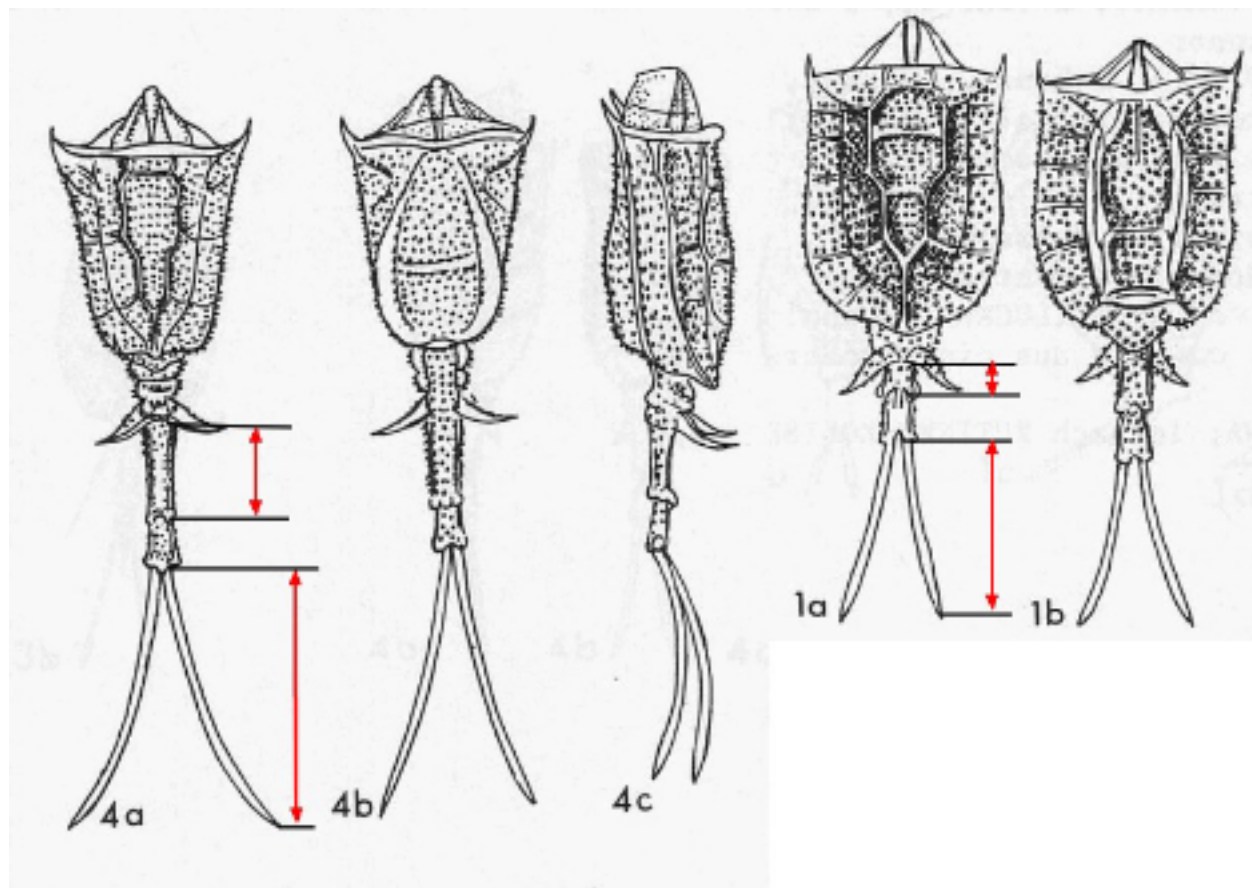
Phenology: Deer rutting season in full swing.

New Species: (9)

'Armored Rotifer'	<i>Trichotria tetratrix</i>	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Digitate Amoeba'	<i>Vexillifera</i> sp.	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Urn Diffflugia'	<i>Diffflugia oblonga</i>	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Noneck Spathidium'	<i>Spathidium</i> sp.	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Refractive Oscillatoria'	<i>Oscillatoria limnetica</i>	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Small Oxytrich'	<i>Oxytricha ludibunda</i>	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Smooth Aspidisca'	<i>Aspidisca [lynceus]</i>	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Petal Flagellate'	[<i>Petalomonas</i>] sp.	FC/LR KD Oc24/10
'Coffin Diatom'	<i>Gomphonema constrictum</i>	FC/LR KD Oc24/10

IMAGES:

You can see from these accurate drawings why I call this guy the “Armored Rotifer.”



Rotifers are animals (Kingdom Animalia) that feed by ingesting food particles into a set of internal jaws. They have the same range of sizes as the larger Ciliates, about 40 - 400 microns.

Bob holds the Sharps up for our inspection. Note elevated rear sight which can be adjusted for shots up to 300 yards.



The Sharps was used to hunt buffalo en masse for several decades in the late 19th Century.

Steve takes aim with a traditional bow.



What it's all about: A beautiful eight-pointer checks out the camera area.



Actual time of image was 11/13/2010 21:33:00 (approx) According to the actual time, this could not have been the buck allegedly shot on TTLT property.