

Date and time: Tuesday September 10 2013 2:20 - 8:55 pm

Weather: Pr 0mm ; RH 60%; BP 101.6 kPa; clear; Se 5-40 kmh; T 40° C

Activity: maintenance, with little time for ATBI

I arrived in camp under sweltering skies and went straight to our thermometer in the ventilated white wooden box. As the alert reader will have noticed, our “official” temperature on site today was 40° C, an “unofficial” record!

Once again I performed the Honeybee survey, counting 118 individuals, as compared with the count of 107 on the previous occasion. The count is up slightly.

It was time for some maintenance. I had to finish Pat’s job of adding stain to the trailer deck, as well as a treatment of tung oil for the canoe. We plan to host a picnic for four TTLT donors this coming Saturday. The maintenance took almost all available time, but I managed a trip to the river, finding a potentially new Tiger Beetle on Mussel Beach. Little fellow would not let me get any closer than about a metre and off he flew again! I wonder how Steve Marshall would do it.

I waited until sunset in hopes of getting a sound recording of the mystery bird described in the previous Bulletin. But by sunset, all the crickets were calling and the Katydid added their cacophony shortly after (thanks to the warmth?). I couldn’t even have told if the mystery bird was calling or not. Let alone record it!

Phenology: Katydid still calling

New Species:

Big Sand Tiger Beetle *Cicindela [formosa]* MB KD Sp10/13

Note: The pattern on the dorsum of the tiger beetle photographed this afternoon was a close match with most individuals in the species *Cicindela formosa*. However, I cannot verify that it was a few mm longer than the Common Shore Beetle, *Cicindela repanda*, owing to the difficulty in approaching it. Moreover, the latter species has enough variation among individuals to nearly match the pattern in any case. However, I will make the tentative ID above and rely on our brain trust of entomologists to support or to question the identification. (images below)

IMAGES:



The lower image was taken at a lateral angle, making the beetle appear somewhat narrower than the upper specimen (Source: BugGuide)

Newport Forest Factoid



The upper image shows a powerline that crosses Newport Forest. It was constructed in 1947 as a transmission line that runs all the way to Windsor (lower image). Nowadays it is used only for “local distribution”.