

**Date and time:** Thursday August 2 2014 2:50 - 7:05 pm

**Weather:** Pr 20 mm; RH 63%; BP 102.1 kPa; haze/sun; calm; T 26° C

**Activity:** Continuing to record arthropods

Throughout today's visit, clouds and sun alternated overhead, producing mini-spells of warm and cool. The weather has been peculiar in one way or another over much of 2014, with an unusual emphasis on the cool side. However, nothing prevented us, our field assistant Oussama and I, from continuing to sweep, gather, and spot new finds mingled with old friends, as it were.



Cloud obscures sun and suddenly everything gets cool. Somewhat unusual.

A slow walk through the Regen Zone (newly planted forest) netted fewer insects than I would have expected, but I gamely photographed whatever appeared, including a rather colourful fly that turned out to be a member of the Picture-winged family Ulidiidae and (disappointedly) already known to us in 2009.

The next project involved going through yet another collection of leaf litter from further downslope on the Fleming Creek Bluffs. Would the composition of the sample change? There were no centipedes and none of the plate-backed millipedes

found further up. The sample was instead dominated by dull, featureless spiders and a lone wormlike Polyzoniid millipede that was identical to one captured in the previous litter sample, along with another smaller millipede that will take a while (if not forever) to identify. A few Harvestmen rounded out the sample.

After a lunch break in the Nook (visited by a hungry Nitidulid “Picnic Beetle”), we set out for Blind Creek Forest to search and sweep some more. It was here that Oussama drew my attention to some wooly insects on a branch overhead. “Wooly Aphids”, I announced. Wrong. They turned out not to be aphids at all, given away by their large pinkish eyes, but a variant Plant Hopper that makes waxy “plumes”.

Our final foray had us close up camp and drive up to the west meadow where a bonanza of insects awaited us, including a new orb weaver to head today’s list. But all too soon it was time to go. So many arthropods, so little time!

### **New Species:**

‘Orange Striped Orbweaver’	<i>Araneus pratensis</i>	UM KD Au07/14
Thin-legged Wolf Spider	<i>Pardosa [dorsuncata]</i>	BCT dbKD Au02/14
Six-spotted Fishing Spider	<i>Dolomedes triton</i>	FC KD Au02/14
‘Wooly Plume Bug’	<i>Acanalonia pumila</i>	ET/BCF oaKD Au0714
‘Epauletted Robber Fly’	<i>Machimus [snowii]</i>	LM/HBF dbKD Au02/14

**Species Note.** Our two best images featured below are of arthropods that I thought were new to the ATBI list but, on checking, found that they weren’t. This is happening with increasing frequency as we continue to mine the same restricted habitats. Today I photographed seven species that were already recorded, each time thinking they were new. Today’s percentage of new species = 5/12 or 41.7%. We have begun the practice of expanding the ATBI list to include repeated records at the suggestion of Keith Langdon. (See below.)

**Apology:** Some mailings of the previous Bulletin (#947) had a messed up caption on the image of Dan Bickel. This was created in the pdf stage. We apologize.

**Readers Write:** (responses to our recent announcement of 2000+ species.)

Linda McDougall, Board Chair for the Thames Talbot Land Trust, writes, “Congratulations Kee and Pat. That is amazing news. Well done and all the best to you both!”

Keith Langdon of the Great Smokies ATBI project writes, “Glad to hear about your efforts at the Newport Forest. That is an impressive number of species that you documented. I am a recently retired biologist at Great Smokey Mountains National Park and a Board member of Discover Life in America, Inc, the non-profit organization that keeps the Smokies ATBI going and has hopes of one day helping birth an alliance of ATBIs.” (We are currently in discussion with Langdon in furtherance of an alliance project.)

## IMAGES:



This ‘Foliated Jumping Spider’ (*Platycryptus undatus*) was first seen by Pat on August 11 of 2011. She brought it to my attention on the trailer door just as Oussama did today: “Hey. Come and check out this camo spider.” (“Camo” is Twitter short form for “camouflage”.) The pattern on this spider’s carapace and abdomen is remarkably stable, unlike some other spiders such as the Long-jawed Orb Weaver, for example.



We have called this the ‘Candy-stripe Fly’ for obvious reasons. Picture-winged flies are not particularly common in our area, but show up every now and then. The previous record of this species was made by Steve Marshall during a visit to Newport Forest on July 30, 2009.

This fly has extended mouthparts that resemble a hand-held vacuum cleaner — for sucking up decaying organic matter.