

Date and time: Saturday September 20 2014 1:10 - 6:10 pm

Weather: Pr 5 mm; RH 70%; BP 101.6 kPa; S 20-45 km/h; sub/haze; T 15° C

Activity: Looking for new species in places where the wind isn't blowing.

A windy afternoon forced Pat into the woods and me under the bark of a log. The image below shows trees leaning to the left, small trees more than big ones. Wind!



Pat went instinctively to the forest, looking for new spiders, while I took the trail down to the creek, finding a promising well-rotted Bitternut log to strip the bark from. Before I even started, I noticed some small metallic green bees or wasps on overhanging foliage. “Aha!” I thought. “They’re either Sweat Bees or Cuckoo Wasps.” Imagery decided the issue later: Sweat Bees.

At this point some friends from Moraviantown arrived for a visit in the Nook. We enjoyed some fudge from the Covent Garden market in London, while recalling youthful days in the 50s and 60s. Two decades take a while to get through and it was not until 5 pm that I got the chance to get at that log. Stripping away the bark revealed treasure after treasure: a bright yellow network of the slime mold, perhaps *Hemitrichia*; a coiled up millipede *Comanchelus* (both new species); an *Oniscus* sowbug (non-native and non-new); a nest of winged ants and a mass of eggs which

they began to carry off in a state of panic at this giant intruder. Further along the log I found two masses of tiny slime mold sporangia, as well as a great many very young puffball buttons.

The wind had abated slightly, but the sky had clouded over with increasing promise of rain. We found a new Mason Wasp busy digging in the Nook, as well as a caterpillar of the White-marked Tussock Moth. More old friends turned up in the Regen Zone: There we ran across two *Mecaphesa* spiders (*M. aspirata*), a Tree Hopper (*Ceresa alta*) and a Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*). The wind!

New Species:

‘Chocolate Prince’	[<i>Connopus acervatus</i>]	BCF kdGT My19/11
Hawthorn Canker	<i>Gymnosporium [globosum]</i>	LM kdGT Au02/14
‘Coiling Milliped’	<i>Comanchelus</i> sp.	FCB KD Sp20/14
‘Yellow-headed Hopper’	[<i>Cicadella viridis</i>]	RB saKD Sp11/14
‘Convergent Robber Fly’	<i>Heteropogon</i> sp	GF KD Au24/14

Notes: The two species of fungi have been removed from suspension and into the ATBI list, thanks to mycologist Greg Thorn. *Heteropogon* gets the label “convergent” because of markings on the thorax. Correction the species ID for the ‘Bear Paws’ in the previous issue is not *Plicatoporus*, but *Lentinellus ursinus*, (Not new.)

Readers Write:

Richard Janik of Windsor (ON) owns a large conservation property right next to Newport Forest. He writes of a mysterious visitor to the area: “One of my fellows was up at the farm late on Friday. He saw an animal with solid black fur make its way up the ravine through tall grass ... the back of the animal was taller than the grass (which was over 2' high) and he said it moved in a "lumbering" fashion. He's an avid outdoorsman but was surprised by this. Have you experienced any bear sightings or bear droppings at Newport ?” [The answer: “Not yet.”]

Patty Frank of San Diego (CA) sends this link to a dancing Jumping Spider that is native to parts of Australia. The antics of *Maratus volans*. are hypnotic and hallucinatory “Enjoy the dance,” she writes.

http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d_yYC5r8xMI&autoplay=1

IMAGES:



A slime mold has formed a plasmodium (upper image) under the bark of a Bitternut log. Later it may wander to a better “vantage” point like la giant amoeba. There it will form a great many sporangia, perhaps like the ones in the lower image. These seem to belong to the slime mold *Hemitrichia*. A 25-cent piece provides some scale. When fully ripe the sporangia will burst open to release their spores to the wind. The white deposit is probably a bird dropping. Our apologies.



Many species of Millipeds curl up into a spiral under bark, particularly ones in the Order Spirobolida, as with this species of *Comanchus*. The closer you get, the more attractive (and interesting) millipedes become, in general. A better focus would reveal dark markings against a grey and pink background more clearly!