

Date and time: Saturday July 7 2018 2:15 - 5:55 pm

Weather: Pr 8 mm; RH 37%; BP 102.8 kPa; clear; N 5-10 kmh; T 23° C

Contents: Laura returns to show that two nets are better than one.



Last Week's Bat Survey: We salute the survey crew, volunteers, and TTLT leaders that joined the bat survey (left to right): Eric Conway, Kaitlin Richardson (Chair of TTLT Property Management Committee), Lauren Negrazis, Mark Willson, Helen Chen, Kaitlyn Ludba, Melissa Lucas, Daria Koscinski (TTLT Property Manager), and Niloufar Boujar. (Not shown: Morgan Roblin and Laura Gerencser from Ontario Species at Risk.) With thanks to Daria Koscinski.

Laura Lee, who has been our on-site assistant in previous summers, has returned once again to lend her talents to the arthropod hunt. We stopped at the gate so that I could show her the Red Milkweed Beetle, one of the most colourful Longhorn Beetles on site. Little did we realize that we would find another remarkable Longhorn Beetle that very day.

Driving down to the camp, we found the creek still high and running muddy. I sat in the Nook to “hydrate” myself, but Laura remained standing, staring intently into the lower branches of the old Black Maple that shades the Nook. “What is it?” I asked. “There’s something up there.” She took a chair, then stood on it to describe some tiny insects for me. (Such eyes!) I gave her my camera and she snapped several images. They were aphids, but of a kind I have never seen before and which I still can’t identify. (Thus I farmed the image out.)

We decided to do four sweeps and got right down to business. This time, however, I gave Laura the spare net so that we could double our take. The first pair of sweeps in the Lower Meadow brought out adult and nymphal grasshoppers, an assassin bug, hoppers, a jumper, nymphal bush cricket, and assorted plant bugs. On our way to the Blind Creek Forest, we were arrested by the sight of a beautiful Hummingbird Moth hovering over some Black-eyed Susans. (No time to grab the camera.) Both at the Elbow and on our way there, we seemed to see Harvestmen everywhere. The next pair of sweeps produced more Harvestmen (no surprise), a beautiful Longjawed Orbweaver, a strange green hopper, a red and black bug, and several fireflies. So much for the Elbow. We proceeded to the River Landing.

At the RL our combined nets produced a Four-lined Plant Bug, some mosquitoes, a green bush cricket nymph, and a pair of Longhorn Beetles, *in flagro delicti*, a phrase our entomology instructor once used in this situation. (See the IMAGES.) On the way back to camp, Laura spotted a tiny ball of spider eggs suspended by a silk thread from a leaf along the trail. Back in camp, I decided we would have time to carry out one more sweep, this time along the track verging on the Gallery Forest: a white spider, a black and white moth, several plant bugs, a small black bug, small flies, an inch worm, and a nymphal Bush Cricket, among other things.

Before leaving, I browbeat Laura into admitting that she might just be available again in the midst of her studies at the U of T Faculty of Pharmacy.

Phenology: River and creek both running high and full of sediment.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species: (16% new arthropods)

‘Red Mayfly’	<i>Isonychia</i> sp.	BCF KD J107/18
‘Eyed Plant Bug’	<i>Polymerus unifasciatus</i>	LM KD J107/18
Poplar-gall Saperda	<i>Saperda inornata</i>	RL IIKD J107/18
Three-streaked Sparganothis	<i>Sparganothis [tristriata]</i>	RL IIKD J107/18

Species Notes:

We could find only one species of all-red Mayfly in BugGuide and we list only the genus here as a safeguard. The *Polymerus* plant bug must be common on site, but this is our first sighting. The new Longhorn Beetle has a close lookalike in *Hebestola nebulosa* but can be distinguished from it by spines on its pronotum. The way that a Sparganothis moth folds its wings can hide a “streak” or two, so we cannot commit completely to the three-streaked species.

Recurring Species: [Note unusual ratio of arachnids to insects 6:15]

Furrow Orbweaver (*Larinioides cornutus*); 'Variable Longjaw' (*Tetragnatha versicolor*); 'Black-barred Mangora' (*Mangora gibberosa*); Marbled Orb Weaver (*Araneus marmoreus*); Cobweb Spider (*Enoplognatha ovata*); 'Black-banded Harvestman' (*Leiobunum vittatum*); Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Two-striped Grasshopper (*Malanoplus bivittata*); Two-spotted Tree Cricket (*Neoxabea bipunctata* - nymph); Angular Spittlebug (*Lepyronia angulifera*); Spined Assassin Bug (*Sinea diadema*); Alfalfa Plant Bug (*Adelphocoris lineolatus*); Obscure Plant Bug (*Plagiognathus obscurus*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolatus*); Four-lined Plant Bug (*Poecilocapsus lineatus*); Green Immigrant Weevil (*Polydrusus formosus*); Red Milkweed Beetle (*Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*); Japanese Beetle (*Popillia Japonica*); 'Two-spotted Soldier' (*Cyrtomoptera divisa*); Hummingbird Moth (*Hemaris thysbe*); Bee Fly (*Bombylius* sp.).

Recurrances are essential for monitoring. At first we were content that our ATBI database involve presence/absence only, but five years ago we decided to record recurring species as a way to track population sizes. Adding records yearly for common species is a bit labour intensive, so we only record recurrences with a two year lag, not bothering with annual records because of the more common species.

Deferred or Discarded:

UID firefly; UID grasshopper; red bug nymph; UID Ichneumon; UID Agonopterix moth; soldier beetle; possible *Clusia* fly.

ATBI Database Maintenance:

It becomes necessary from time to time to carry out corrections to the Newport Forest ATBI database. We accept corrections from knowledgeable readers, as well as finding corrections of our own to make. Corrections to date involve three species brought to our attention by Stan Caveney, Steve Paiero — both entomologists — and by Hugh Casbourn, an experienced amateur who specializes in moths. The Beaverpond Clubtail (Je12/17), the pillbug (Jl02/17) and the Chocolate Moth (Jl03/18) will accordingly be deleted from the record, which now spans some 1500 species of arthropods — all from a single 47 ha property!

Image Gallery



The Red Milkweed Beetle (*Tetraopes tetraphthalmus*) can be easily found in any patch of Milkweed around this time of year. The name translates roughly as “the four-eyed Four Eyes” since both eyes are divided by the antenna. Both larvae and adult feed on the tissues of the host plant. The beetle is widely distributed throughout eastern North America.



Two for the price of one: the Poplar-gall Saperda (*Saperda inornata*) has found a mate and pursues the affair unmindful of the net. Like the beetle on the previous page, this one tis also a Longhorn (Cerambycid) with a northeastern distribution in North America. The larvae feed on poplars and willows.



The 'Variable Longjaw' spider (*Tetragnatha versicolor*), like the other Longjaw Orbweavers in the genus, has massively developed chelicerae or mouthparts. However, it has a distinctively shaped abdomen and a folium on its back not shared by other species of *Tetragnatha* in the area.