

Date and time: Wednesday July 25 2018 2:15 - 5:45 pm.

Weather: Pr 35 mm; RH 74%; BP 101.3 kPa; sun/cloud; N 10 kmh; T 26° C

Contents: More insects, with the help of two budding entomologists.



Standing in The “Hole”: Layla Amer (left) with sister Sarah (right), Sarah’s son Noah and his friend Mahmoud. Noah has his collecting jar and Mahmoud has one of our nets.

I brought an entourage with me to the property today: Sarah and Layla came with Sarah’s son Noah and his friend Mahmoud. Although Noah has only recently switched allegiance from dinosaurs to insects, his older friend Mahmoud has been at it for some time. He even maintains a “Bug Book” in which he writes down all the “bugs” he finds. After parking by the Nook and unloading, I was delighted to find 35 mm of precipitation in the rain gauge. As for temperature, a balmy 26° C.

To make a long story short, I managed five sweeps today, the last two carried out by our assistant Layla. I suspect that readers are beginning to find my interminable descriptions of bag contents tiresome. The good stuff is all listed below, in any case. After my first sweep in the vegetation along the edge of the Gallery Forest, I took everybody to the River Landing where I did a second sweep among the giant Cup Plants and other plants in bloom. These seem to bring the most insects and spiders. On the way back from the river, Noah suddenly screamed at something on a trailside plant. It turned out to be a walking stick. I asked Sarah how Noah was able to spot insects so readily. She shrugged. “He’s small, too.”

We stopped briefly to examine the Elbow for arthropods when a Giant Swallowtail dropped by to see what we were up to. After swooping through the clearing and winging off into the woods, it returned for a second look, just to make sure. Back at the Nook we compared notes, glanced at our watches and decided that there was time for another sweep. Up to this point I had been somewhat distracted by questions the kids asked or by bugs they brought to me. I kept having to say things like, “Well, you could call that a red spider, but until I get home tonight on my computer, I won’t know.” For our last sweep, Layla and I went down to the creek to sample the banks. Although the river was high and muddy, the creek was running low and clear, owing to its different watershed. After we had gone through the bag from the creek, Layla kindly waded out to the rapids to put two “mossy” rocks into a large pickle jar that I use for creek samples. Back up in the Nook, something bothered me. Something was missing. Slowly it came to me: I had only seen perhaps three individual Syrphid flies since the warm weather began. By now we should have seen nearly a hundred!

We left the site in our separate vehicles. However, I paused long enough to get a quick sweep of the Upper Meadow, bringing the net home in a folded state to inspect it at home. Pat wondered if the insects were shocked when they left the bag only to find a very different landscape.

Biological Inventory (ATBI)

New Species: (3 % new arthropods)

‘Marbled Cobweb Spider’	<i>Enoplogmatha marmorata</i>	BCF laKD J125/18
‘Whitemarked Milgitea’	<i>Milgitea alboplagialis</i>	PLM KD J117/14

Species Notes:

Additional finds by our young visitors drove the Recurring Species number higher than usual. Today’s new species percentage is only 3 because only one of them was found today, the other being a deferred ID from 2014. The spider brings our count of *Enoplognatha* species to its areal complement. Done with *Enoplognatha*! Today’s percentage of Aeachnida was 29%, a very high percentage, as below.

Recurring Species:

‘Black-banded Harvestman’ (*Leiobunum vittatum*); ‘Ornate Neoscona’ (*Neoscona arabesca*); Northern Crab Spider (*Metaphase asperata*); ‘Black-barred Mangora’ (*Mangora gibberosa*); ‘White-bordered Theridiid’ (*Theridion frondeum*); (young) Marbled Orb Weaver (*Araneus marmoreus*); Northern Crab Spider (*Mecaphesa asperata*); Northern Walkingstick (*Diaperomera femorata*); Ebony

Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*); Two-striped Plant Hopper (*Acanalonia bivittata*); 'Green Sharpshooter' (*Draeculocephala atica*); Say's Trig (*Anaxipha exidua*); Meadow Katydid (*Conocephalus* sp.); Two-spotted Tree Cricket (*Neoxabia bipunctata*); Four-lined Plant Bug (*Poecilopsus lineatus*); Alfalfa Bug (*Adelphocoris lineolata*); False Milkweed Bug (*Lygaeus turcicus*); Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*); Helmeted Squash Bug (*Euthochtha galeator*); Common Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*); Eastern Comma (*Polygona comma*); Seven-spotted Lady Beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*); Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*); 'Dappled Fruit Fly' (*Eutreta noveboracensis*); Flesh Fly (*Sarcophaga* sp.); Deer Fly (*Chrysops* sp.); Northern Paper Wasp (*Polistes fuscatus*).

Deferred or Discarded:

Spiny nymph - Squash Bug?; possible Marbled Orbweaver; Coreid nymph; Sarcophagid fly; green Hopper nymph; Black & white Hopper nymph; two unID'd Plant Bugs.

Image Gallery



A Two-striped Plant Hopper (*Acanalonia bivittata*) takes a break on my minivan window. We are increasingly impressed by the sharp images produced by iPhones with their pinhole cameras. Image: Sarah Amer



Mangora gibberosa



Mangora placida



Mangora spiculata

(With apologies for poor image quality.)

We can now begin to assemble genera out of species for many groups of arthropods. We can do the same thing for plants, even more so, since the number of plant species on site is only about 1/10 of the number of arthropod species.



Nothing to do with trigonometry, the “Trig” in the name refers to a Cricket subfamily of winged bush crickets called Trigonidiinae. It was Edward Say, a famous early American naturalist, after whom this insect is named. Among the great many species found and named by Say in the 18th Century, Say’s Trig is common, both locally and in NE North America. It has *very* long antennae.