

Newport Forest

Wednesday September 26 2007

2:15 - 6:15 pm

weather: prec 10 mm; RH 90%; BP 99.2 kPa; ovcast; calm; LM 18 C

purpose: to meet Mike Oldham

participants: Kee, Jane Bowles, Mike Oldham, Sam Brinker (ass't)

Mike Oldham is a well-known botanist with the Ontario Natural Heritage Centre in Peterborough. Jane Bowles invited him down to visit Newport Forest. When I got there, they were nowhere in evidence, so I busied myself with gathering acorns for the tree nursery and inspecting the RZ. (about 1/4 of the smaller trees are packing it in for the season)

While gathering acorns, I spotted a new gall on some oak leaves overhead, but was unable to ID the gall at home later on, owing to a lack of sufficient (web) resources. The organism makes a small, pink spherical gall, about 2-4 mm in diameter, minutely pubescent (fuzzy), and growing in a cluster along the midvein of the upper leaf surface of Red Oak. Near the scene of gathering I found a new fungus growing on a Bitternut log. (I left this specimen with Greg Thorn, as it did not appear to be in any of my books.) Jane and Mike did not emerge from the woods until about 5 pm. There was little chance to chat, as they "had to run." However, Jane said a) they have some new plants for us and b) they discovered a new, mature Eastern Flowering Dogwood on the upper bluffs of the Hogsback. After they left, I went to the HB and climbed through dense thickets to get to the tree with deep red foliage. Sure enough! So the younger tree we found last year near the trail below this specimen is probably its offspring. Descending to reexamine the smaller tree, I found a HUGE wasp nest hanging from it. (Bald-faced Hornet)

new species:

Smoky Rubyspot

Hetaerina titia

TR MO Sp26/07

birds: (10)

Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Blue Jay (BCF); Canada Goose (LM); Dark-eyed Junco (HBF/LM); Gray Catbird (BCF); Mourning Dove (LM); Northern Cardinal (GF); Northern Flicker (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch (GF);