

Newport Forest

July 1 2000

5:00 - 7:30 pm

Weather: sunny, some cloud, 28C, SW breeze

Purpose: to collect biota in Riverside Forest

Participants: Pat, Kee

Both the meadow and the river clearing were full of butterflies, including fritillaries, swallowtails, anglewings, browns and azures. We parked the van by the Old Creek Forest entrance and, besides our usual field-packs, brought in Uncle Cam's chairs and the round table from our pond at 42 Askin St. Leaving behind our lunch and a bag of dog biscuits, we proceeded along the Riverside Trail, pausing frequently to examine things. At the RSF entrance, in a pile of river debris, Pat found a plethora of land snails, four of which turned out to be new, including the colourful "Checkered Snail" *Anguispira alternata*. Pat also spotted tiny yellow cups on an old log just a little further into the forest. These turned out to be Lemon Drops, *Bisporella citrina*. She distinguished herself further on by finding Orange Jelly, *Dacrymyces palmata*, on large, dead branch by the trail.

We followed the trail as so far constructed and, near the far end of the forest, found a *Psathyrella* on a mouldering log, *Psathyrella candolleana*. There were many plants to see, as usual, and Pat collected several, including a Bloodroot and Helleborine. She also found some unusual sedges.

We found again the old Hackberry that Michelle and I had seen during her visit. I measured the girth at 2.8 metres, for an average of 89 cm dbh.

Returning to the river clearing, we celebrated Canada Day seated at our table, with sandwiches, soup, and coffee. During the meal, Pat spotted a new and unusual butterfly for which I dutifully recorded the obvious field marks. But when we got home, we could not pin it down. A checkerspot?