Monitoring Nature

Date and time: Thursday July 2 2015 2:15 - 5:05 pm
Weather: Pr 64 mm; RH 66%; BP 101.7; sun/cloud; winds calm; T 26ºC
Activity: Hunting for arthropods in the Lower Meadow.

The main activity today was the continuing search for new arthropods. The mosquitoes, although not quite as bad as the last visit, nevertheless kept us pretty much confined to the open Meadow areas. To-day's assistant, Laura Hyunseo Lee, now finished with her second year as a science student at Western University, stands in front of a young Catalpa in the Lower Meadow in the image below, insect

net at the ready. Over and over again, Laura swept and I took photographs. At one point, however, Laura spotted a Tawny Emperor parked on a nearby leaf. I started taking pictures from a timid distance, but Laura seized the camera out of my hand and held it mere inches from the butterfly. (See IMAGES below for the result.) Laura also spotted a new moth for us, the Slant-lined Owlet Moth (*Noctuidae*).

During a break, we moved the rain gauge from its old location in the Regen Zone (where young trees now threatened to deflect rain away from the instrument) to a new location at the eastern edge of the property. Laura dug the hole, since I am still somewhat *hors de combat* after my operation.

Back to work, Laura swept and I photographed, noticing as we went that we were getting a lot more spiders than insects! There were Orb Weavers, Jumping Spiders, Linyfiids, and others, many of them small. We are getting down to "short strokes,"

having found nearly all of the large spiders like Argiopes, Micrathenas, Shamrock Spiders, Wolf Spiders, jumpers like *Phiddipus audax*, and so on.

The results of our expedition can be seen below. We rounded off the afternoon by driving to the Upper Meadow to spend another half hour hunting for arthropods before heading back to the city.

New Species:

'Red-headed Dwarf'*	*Hypselistes florens*	LM lhlKD Jl02/15
'Red-backed Theridion'	*Theridion differens*	LM lhlKd Je02/15
'White-headed Mesh Weaver'	*Dictyna major*	LM lnlkd Jl02/15
'Three-spotted Crab'	[*Xysticus triguttatus*]	LM KD Je17/15
Furrow Spider	*Larinoides* [*cornutus*]	LM KD Je0215
Black Saddlebags	*Tramea lacerata*	UM DM Je26/14
'Candy Midge'	*Polypodilum* sp.	LM lhlKD Jl02/15
'Long-horned Plant Bug'	*Megaloceroera recticornis*	LM lhlKD Jl02/15
Slant-lined Owlet Moth	*Macrochilo absorptalis*	LM lhlKD Jl0215

Species Notes:

The first six arthropods are small animals, with bodies that are just two or three millimetres long. The first of these is our first Dwarf Spider (subfam. Erigoninae), distinguished from the nearly identical Orb Weaver, *Hyposinga pygamaea*, by a darkening (not solid black) of the legs and the smaller black eye-patch. The Black Saddlebags dragonfly was recorded by Dave Martin last summer, but we neglected adding it to the ATBI list until now. Square brackets indicate uncertainty in genus or species, usually owing to the presence of lookalikes or the incompleteness of reference information and imagery.

To see what the new species look like, simply copy the scientific names into the window in the Google "Images" browser page.

Catching up:

Readers who would like to read past issues of the *Bulletin* are welcome to visit the archive at <http://www.csd.uwo.ca/~akd/newport-forest/> Scroll to the bottom.

IMAGES: (Photo credit for first image goes to Laura Hyunseo Lee.)

A Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*) perches on a leaf to watch for the arrival of the butterfly counters on Sunday.

Is this a will ‘o the wisp or the track of a firefly near the trail cam? The glow appears to be made up of four distinct pulses. Do we know what species has that characteristic?

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This *Lariniodes* spider is our first specimen in the Furrow Spider genus. As one can tell from its general appearance, Larinioides is an orb weaver. This specimen led me on a merry chase, taxonomically, owing to the rather extreme variability in colour and pattern within the species *L. cornutus*.