
News and Notes

Bio-Blitz 2006

The 2006 BSC Bio-Blitz took place in Gros Morne National Park (GMNP) in north-western Newfoundland from 5-10 July. This sixth annual Bio-Blitz was the first to be held in eastern Canada. The eight enthusiastic participants from Alberta, Ontario and Newfoundland enjoyed the cooperative weather, spectacular scenery and famous Newfoundland hospitality to collect in many of the interesting habitats in the park (e.g., aquatic systems, wetlands, forest, tuckamore, high elevation subarctic barrens and the fascinating Tablelands). Most participants were accompanied by their families who also eagerly joined in the collecting and social activities. Parks Canada (PC) personnel were very generous in providing complimentary park permits, camping sites, maps, helicopter transportation to high elevations, and a wealth of information about the habitats and ecology of the park. Several PC employees also occasionally eagerly participated in collecting activities. The Newfoundland Department of Environment and Conservation, a co-organizer of the event, was very helpful with local logistics and in providing equipment, supplies and assistance with deploying traps. The event at-



Joe Shorthouse sampling at Gros Morne National Park
(photo by J.D. Shorthouse)

tracted some positive attention and several radio interviews with CBC were conducted. The social highlight of the Bio-Blitz was a reception at the Newfoundland Insectarium, hosted by Lloyd and Sandy Hollett, owners of this magnificent facility (a must-see for anyone visiting Newfoundland).

Over the next months participants will be preparing and identifying the many thousands of specimens collected. Entomologists who may be interested in examining specimens should contact David Langor. Data will be contributed to a central database that will be provided to GMNP. Already we are aware of two new mosquito records for the island, and undoubtedly many other exciting discoveries will be made. The specimens and data collected are contributing to several research programs at universities and colleges and to the BSC project on the terrestrial arthropods of Newfoundland and Labrador. There is much interest from PC employees at GMNP in facilitating continued arthropod surveys in the park. Overall, the 2006 was a success in terms of specimen collection, creating public awareness, and forging new partnerships that



Berry Hill campsite, Gros Morne National Park
(photo by J.D. Shorthouse)

bodes well for future arthropod biodiversity work on the island. Special thanks to Shelley Pardy Moores, Bruce Rodrigues, Tom Knight and Michael Burzynski.

The 2007 Bio-Blitz will be held in Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba. Stay tuned to the BSC website and newsletter for updates.

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Western Brook Pond, Gros Morne National Park
(photo by J.D. Shorthouse)

Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification

Last fall's newsletter announced the launch of a new ejournal devoted to the publication of richly illustrated guides to Canadian arthropods (see Project update: The Biological Survey of Canada Journal of Arthropod Identification). The Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification (CJAI) has now gone live on the Biological Survey's web site.

The first papers to be published are

-*Mecoptera of Ontario* (David K. B. Cheung, Stephen A. Marshall, and Don W. Webb)

-*Keys to the Families and Genera of Blood and Tissue Feeding Mites Associated with Albertan Birds*
(Wayne Knee, and Heather Proctor)

The home page of the CJAI is at <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/bsc/ejournal/ejournal.html>

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