

# The Entomological Society of Manitoba *Newsletter*



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## About the ESM Newsletter

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter is published three times per year. It is a forum whereby information can be disseminated to Society members. As such, all members are encouraged to contribute often. The Newsletter is interested in opinions, short articles, news of research projects, meeting announcements, workshops, courses and other events, requests for materials or information, news of personnel or visiting scientists, literature reviews or announcements and anything that may be of interest to ESM members.

Pat MacKay, Editor<sup>1</sup>  
Mahmood Iranpour, Editor<sup>2</sup>

Dept. of Entomology,  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3T 2N2

<sup>1</sup>Ph. (204) 452-4025  
[pa\\_mackay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:pa_mackay@umanitoba.ca)

<sup>2</sup>Ph. (204) 474-6994  
[iranpour@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:iranpour@cc.umanitoba.ca)

## Editors' Comments

It's September already, and although not officially here, the weather certainly makes it feel like fall has arrived. In Winnipeg, and from an entomological perspective, that means no more mosquitoes, or at least not many, and tanglefoot bands going up on tree trunks.



To relive some of the pleasures of summer, read the first three Newsletter items: your **President's Report**, the **BioBlitz** Report, and news from **Churchill** Manitoba. You can also read about a **New Member** of the Society, about a **Past Member** who has recently been awarded a major honour, and about some **Current Student Members** who are also award winners. There's also the usual information on upcoming meetings and the officers of your Society.

But please take special note of the brightly coloured extra sheet enclosed with your Newsletter. This year's **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for 02 and 03 November, 2007. The theme is: "Arthropod vectors of plant and animal pathogens". And the call for submitted papers has now gone out. Robbin Lindsay awaits your submissions!

Pat MacKay & Mahmood Iranpour

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everybody!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and that your summer was terrific. I certainly know mine has been. In between running to hockey tournaments around the great plains, I have sure noticed a wide range of insect activity. This is certainly nothing out of the ordinary, but the abundance of some critters is great to see. Lots of milkweed butterflies and sphinx /hawkmoth larvae have crossed my path so far this year and many of my non-entomological colleagues have brought in numerous specimens for identification and information on their 'danger factor'. So, I hope that all of you doing any collecting are foraging well.



This is my last submission to the Newsletter as grand poobah and I must say that it has been a fun and successful term. Having the success of the joint meeting with the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America no doubt helped to make many in the United States more aware of the ESM and the great work, energy and enthusiasm that our members have for entomology. This meeting will also help to make our fall meeting a success as well. The theme is 'insects as vectors of plant and animal pathogens' and should be interesting. Do plan to keep your calendars clear for the meeting and stay tuned for further info on it.

With record numbers of West Nile Virus cases being discovered, no doubt there will be a great deal of debate over human activity, mosquito control, pesticide buffer zones etc. Spider mites in spruce trees have also made the news, as have the ants, and birch and poplar borers.

It is my understanding that the Youth Encouragement Committee and members of the Society in general have done a lot of work giving presentations to various groups. As we know, this a great way to expose the public to many of the wonders associated with insects in our environment. So that is fabulous to hear. I say three cheers to all the committee members who put in so much effort on behalf of the Society!

In closing, I thank all of you, on behalf of the Society, and those who have benefited from its activities, who have helped with the various duties and undertakings. I also urge those of you who are members, to participate in Society functions. By participating, you can help the Society stay relevant, and add suggestions on its direction into the future. Also, for those of you who know of people who might be Entomological Society of Manitoba wannabees (I picture buzzing wallabies with antennae when I think of this), please encourage them to come out and give it a try. For a very minor fee, they can not only learn a lot of really interesting things about insects but they can meet a great group of people as well. Thanks very much again for having me as President and remember: "When the bee comes to your house, let her have beer; for you may want to visit the bee's house some day". ~Congo Proverb

Best Regards  
Blaine Timlick  
President, ESM

## BioBlitz 2007

The Biological Survey of Canada's 2007 BioBlitz was held July 16 to July 20 in Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba. The park is located about 225 km northwest of Winnipeg, and consists of about 10,000 ha of aspen parkland, an ecotone between boreal forest and grassland. The participants consisted of nine keen entomologists, present for varying periods of time over the week, a substantial number of equally keen Park staff, and a smattering of the general public, invited to assist by Parks staff.



Monday morning meeting with RMNP staff. Rob Roughley, the principal organizer, on the extreme right, briefs Parks staff. ESM member Bob Lamb is on the extreme left.

The week started first thing Monday morning with an orientation meeting attended by both National Parks staff and entomologists. This allowed for an exchange of information and discussion of the plans and expectations for the week for each of the participants. The Park staff, including but not limited to Cam McKillop, Wybo Vanderschuit, and Ken Kingdon, were accommodating and keen. They helped in many ways, from providing GPS units to those without their own, to printing up collection labels for collectors. They also had their own plans to enhance the week of collecting. Several of their staff participated in collecting, particularly of butterflies and dragonflies, using University of Manitoba equipment made available by Rob Roughley, the principal organizer of this year's BioBlitz. In addition, they organized two public collecting events, in which they invited Park visitors to participate. These events consisted of a morning of butterfly collecting in a lovely meadow near the townsite of Wasagaming, and an afternoon of dragonfly collecting around a nearby marsh.

The start of the week was not without its problems for some of the participants. Rob Roughley, was returning on the Sunday before the BioBlitz from teaching a course at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, and collecting in Wapusk National Park, north of Churchill on the shore of Hudson Bay (See next Newsletter item for details.). To get to the BioBlitz on time, he had to take the train from Churchill to Thompson, retrieve his car, and drive the 750 km from Thompson to Wasagaming where the Park office is. Unfortunately the train was late and therefore so was he. He and Jonathon Veilleux, who works with him, had the pleasure of a couple of hours' sleep in his car in the parking lot adjacent to the Park office. At least it was a short walk to the 9:30 meeting Monday morning.



A viceroy butterfly, *Limenitis archippus*, the second record for RMNP. The first was in 1928.

The weather for the week was very nearly perfect: sunny, hot, and mostly dry. The one exception to the dry conditions occurred the second afternoon. A ferocious thunderstorm, with high winds, torrents of rain, and hail in some locations, tore through the southeastern part of the Park in the late afternoon. It hit the campground in Wasagaming particularly hard. Unfortunately that's where many of the participants were staying, but fortunately none of them were there at the time. They were all out in the far west end of the Park, where there was no rain, and so they stayed dry

and unaware of any problems. However, on their return to their campsite after 8:00 pm, they were initially puzzled to find someone or something had wreaked havoc with their belongings. Eventually some still-frozen hail pellets solved the mystery. Some people spent a second night sleeping in their cars.

The BioBlitz provided an excellent opportunity for some positive publicity for entomology in general and the BioBlitz and the Biological Survey of Canada in particular. Throughout the BioBlitz, Rob Roughley met regularly with the Park staff to help them with their activities incorporating insects in Park programs. At the request of the Friends of Riding Mountain National Park, on Wednesday evening, Pat MacKay gave a public presentation, illustrated with lots of pretty pictures of Riding Mountain insects, explaining who we are and what we were doing over the week. Then on Friday afternoon, Bob Lamb and Pat MacKay were interviewed by the Brandon television station, and filmed making one of the many collections of aphids which they were successful in finding over the week. The television folks considered it all strange but very interesting!



Bob Lamb surveys a typical RMNP scene of fescue prairie with spruce forest in the distance.

In the beautiful surroundings and beautiful weather, collecting was both fun and successful. Insect nets were probably the major collecting tool, based on number of collectors if not necessarily number of specimens, and were used to focus primarily on butterflies and dragonflies. Microlepidoptera were collected at light traps, aphids were collected into tiny vials with tiny forceps, bees were collected at “bee bowls”, water beetles and soil arthropods were given significant attention. A Malaise trap is still in operation at the time of writing. Over the next several months, the specimens will be prepared and identified. The resulting specimens will reside in publicly available collections and the resulting data will be provided to Riding Mountain National Park as a database. Anyone interested in the specimens or the data should contact Rob Roughley of the Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. R.J. Lamb, [rlamb@agr.gc.ca](mailto:rlamb@agr.gc.ca)  
P.A. MacKay, [PA\\_MacKay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:PA_MacKay@umanitoba.ca)  
R.E. Roughley, [Rob\\_Roughley@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Rob_Roughley@umanitoba.ca)

## Churchill collecting - 2007 The busy-ness of insect collecting.

by: Rob Roughley,  
Department of Entomology,  
University of Manitoba

My business card has a motto on it – Have Net – Will Travel. This past summer seems to have exemplified that motto in the extreme. The moral of this story is to be careful about mottos; they just might become too prophetic!

The season of northern collecting started relatively early this year. A new graduate student, Anaïs Renaud, her summer student and bear guard, Michael Pettit, a colleague from the Canadian National Collection in Ottawa, Jose Fernandez Triana, and I headed out of Winnipeg bound for Churchill on June 11. This is always a fun trip driving to Thompson and then taking the train from Thompson to Churchill. I know, I know –

one could fly directly to Churchill but where is the adventure in getting there so quickly? Drive and take the train, see the country; to me this is a much more civilized way to get to Churchill. The emphasis should be on one's definition of what "civilized travel" should be! The purpose of this trip was to be in Churchill before the season really got into full swing – we were able to do this. Hudson Bay still had shore ice; the ice on the Churchill River was breaking up and floating down to the Bay and in many places there were still drifts of snow on the land around Churchill.

Anaïs Renaud is co-supervised by Dr. Jade Savage of Bishop's University and me. Her project is an interesting one and I do not want to take away from her future discussion of the project but some bit of background might be in order. The further north one goes the more the entomofauna is dominated by flies; biting flies to be sure but a richness and diversity of all kinds of flies that is truly awe inspiring. I have noticed this on previous trips to the arctic and sub-arctic, including Churchill, and often thought that the higher flies would make an interesting research topic. The elements of this project all came together with Jade's interest in northern Muscidae (house flies and their relatives), my involvement in research and insect collecting at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC) and the recruitment of Anaïs to look at the fauna. In terms of the muscids there had been an extensive amount of work published in the 1960's about the muscids of northern Canada in general and the Churchill area in particular. During that week of June 11 to 15, we set up a ten Malaise traps around Churchill for the purposes of fly sampling. Our idea has been to examine the changes in this element of



Sheldon Kowalchuk – Research Co-ordinator,  
Wapusk National Park , Rob Roughley amd Anaïs  
Renaud beside helicopter – our wings for the trip



Anaïs Renaud beside Malaise trap in embayment of  
Broad River in Wapusk National Park, August 2007

the entomofauna for changes (increases and decreases) in species richness. This should be valuable information for rates of change associated with climate change and other anthropogenic activities. Anais collected from these Malaise traps weekly from mid-June until late August. Personally I am even more overwhelmed now by the number and kinds of flies that were taken!

My second trip to Churchill was associated with the Boreal and Arctic Entomology course that I have co-taught at Churchill with Dr. Peter Kevan of the University of Guelph since 2003. On this trip I was accompanied by Jonathan Veilleux who was the only student enrolled in the course this year due to a fascinating set of miscommunications and other malfeasances. This course was held from July 1-14 and it worked out quite well. During the course we were able to demonstrate a number of collecting techniques and to assemble a fair amount of material typical of the tundra and boreal forest transition characteristic of the habitats in the area surrounding the CNSC. Tangential to the course but arising because of it has been a survey of the insects of Wapusk National Park. Wapusk is one of the newest national parks and it is huge in extent occupying much of the northwest corner of Manitoba. For this year's sampling, we chose the Broad River area which is 98 km by air south-east of Churchill. Here the tundra ecozone bends south and follows the margin of Hudson Bay and some of these areas are about the nicest areas of tundra that I have ever seen. For the sampling, we have used a series of pitfall traps and a Malaise trap. It is somewhat challenging to set up a Malaise trap on the treeless tundra; in this case we made use of a small embayment in the Broad River. Access to this part of the park is via helicopter and we have usually set up the traps and then left them for a week or so and then flown in again to retrieve the trap contents. This year a bear attacked our Malaise trap and some of the pitfall traps; luckily it did not damage the head of the trap so the specimens survived the trauma even if the trap did not. This Churchill experience is always a wonderful adventure and well worth the effort for any "student" of the boreal and tundra ecosystems. The course will be held at CNSC from July 7<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Now comes the challenge of preparing all of this material – my rule of thumb is between five and ten to one. For each hour of collecting about five to 10 hours are required in the lab for preparation of museum quality material, identification and incorporation into the J.B. Wallis Museum of Entomology. Guess I know where my spare time will be spent this fall!



A polar bear. Much like the culprit that attacked the Malaise trap! And no it is not cute!



Jonathan Veilleux, Michael Pettit and Rob Roughley on stony tundra near Churchill, 2007



Jonathan Veilleux, Peter Kevan, Rob Roughley and Michael Pettit digging in pitfall traps in boreal forest near Churchill. 2007.

## NEW MEMBERS

### Wolly Wijayaratne

Wolly Wijayaratne arrived in Winnipeg, Canada, with the dawn of the New Year 2007, on January 1<sup>st</sup> for his Ph.D. study at the Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba. Snow-fall all over Winnipeg, cold weather, and associated short days brought him a pleasurable new experience. Different food and life styles made it further interesting. Friendliness and mutual respect of the people made him delighted. Sudden change from the humid tropical weather and the vast difference in the daily clock compared to the home country, Sri Lanka, were challenges at which he succeeded.



Wolly obtained B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka in 1999, and M.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 2002 specializing in Agricultural Entomology. He started his career in insect taxonomy. As an undergraduate, he conducted needed research on 'Identification of *Liriomyza* Species (Diptera: Agromyzidae) in Sri Lanka' when their country faced a severe leaf-miner infestation in 1999. Soon after graduation, he was employed as a Research Assistant at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka in research incorporating two disciplines; entomology and virology, where he investigated the transmission of cassava mosaic virus by whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* G. (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae). Following that, he proceeded to his masters studies at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka where he found his position again as a Research Assistant, this time to work in another discipline; Biological Control of Aphids and Whiteflies by *Coccinella* Species. Later on, Wolly became a storage entomologist and worked as a Research Officer in Sri Lanka for five years before he joined Dr. Paul Fields' laboratory this January.

During his career, he has published research findings at many local and international conferences. He attended the Conference of the IOBC WPRS Working Group on Integrated Protection of Stored Products held in Prague, Czech Republic in September, 2005. He also followed the training course on 'Research & Development in Postharvest Practices' conducted at the Volcani Centre, Israel in February-March 2005. His oral presentation made at the North Central Branch meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) held in Winnipeg, March 25-28, 2007, earned him second place in the Ph.D. student competition. Presently he is attentively taking the initial steps of his Ph.D. research.

## PAST MEMBERS

### Dwight Williamson

Michèle Demers, President of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada will present the Gold Medal Award to Mr. Dwight Williamson, Director, Water Science and Management Branch, Manitoba Department of Water Stewardship, on Friday, October 5, 2007.

Dwight is being honoured for his outstanding achievements in the fields of water quality, watershed management and water protection through a combination of science, public policy and sustained sound public action.

The Professional Institute presents a Gold Medal Award each year to recognize and reward public service employees whose outstanding work has led to the improvement and enhancement of public well-being, and to promote a greater awareness of the role and value of professional public service employees both in Canada and globally.

Dwight graduated from the Department of Entomology with his M.Sc. in 2004. His thesis was entitled, "The potential for replacement of aquatic arthropods by taxa performing equivalent ecological functions". He carried out this study while employed by Manitoba Environment and he was able to fit his extensive field studies around his busy schedule.

## **CURRENT MEMBERS**

### **ESM/ESA-NCB Meeting, Award Winners**

In the last Newsletter, we reported on the success of the March 2007 Joint Meeting of the ESM with the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America, but in that report we failed to mention how well the Manitoba students did at those meetings. All members of the Entomological Society of Manitoba should now give a silent cheer for our winners. **Karen Hawkin**, Entomology U of M, won first place in her section of the M.Sc. paper competition; **Chris Friesen**, Botany U of M, was first in his section of the M.Sc. paper competition; **Wolly Wijayaratne**, Entomology U of M, won second place in his section of the Ph.D. paper competition; **Jaswinder Mangat**, Chemistry U of W, won first place in the Ph.D. section of the poster competition. The ESM team in the Linnaean Games held their own, making it into the semi-finals. The team consisted of **Lars Andreassen**, **Kate Bergen**, **Katrina Froese**, and **Paul Kozak**, all of the Department of Entomology, U of M.

## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS\***

### **Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Saskatchewan**

Saskatoon, SK, 29 September – 3 October, 2007

<http://www.esc-sec.org/agm.htm>

Contact: Dwyane Hegedus, [hegedus@agr.gc.ca](mailto:hegedus@agr.gc.ca)

### **Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba**

02 & 03 November 2007

Contact: Robbin Lindsay, [robbin\\_lindsay@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:robbin_lindsay@hc-sc.gc.ca)

### **Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America**

San Diego, CA, USA, 9-12 December, 2007

[http://www.entsoc.org/annual\\_meeting](http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting)



**International Congress of Entomology**  
 Durban, South Africa, 06-12 July, 2008  
[www.ice2008.org.za](http://www.ice2008.org.za)

**Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Ontario**  
 Ottawa, ON, 2008

**Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Manitoba**  
 Winnipeg, MB, 2009

\*If you have a meeting you would like listed in the next ESM Newsletter, contact the editors with the details by December 2007

### ESM EXECUTIVE 2007

POSITION	PERSON	EMAIL ADDRESS
<b>President</b>	Blaine Timlick	<a href="mailto:btimlick@grainscanada.gc.ca">btimlick@grainscanada.gc.ca</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Rheal Lafreniere	<a href="mailto:rlafrenier@gov.mb.ca">rlafrenier@gov.mb.ca</a>
<b>President-Elect</b>	Desiree Vanderwel	<a href="mailto:d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca">d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca</a>
<b>Representative to ESC</b>	Patricia MacKay	<a href="mailto:pa_mackay@umanitoba.ca">pa_mackay@umanitoba.ca</a>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	John Gavloski	<a href="mailto:jgovloski@gov.mb.ca">jgovloski@gov.mb.ca</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	David Ostermann	<a href="mailto:dostermann@gov.mb.ca">dostermann@gov.mb.ca</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ian Wise	<a href="mailto:iwise@agr.gc.ca">iwise@agr.gc.ca</a>
<b>Proceedings Editor</b>	Terry Galloway	<a href="mailto:terry_galloway@umanitoba.ca">terry_galloway@umanitoba.ca</a>

### ESM COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2007

<b>Endowment Fund</b>	Marjorie Smith	<a href="mailto:msmith@agr.gc.ca">msmith@agr.gc.ca</a>
<b>Finance</b>	Marjorie Smith	<a href="mailto:msmith@agr.gc.ca">msmith@agr.gc.ca</a>
<b>Scientific Program</b>	Robbin Lindsay	<a href="mailto:robbin_lindsay@hc-sc.gc.ca">robbin_lindsay@hc-sc.gc.ca</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Patricia MacKay	<a href="mailto:pa_mackay@umanitoba.ca">pa_mackay@umanitoba.ca</a>
	Mahmood Iranpour	<a href="mailto:iranpour@ms.umanitoba.ca">iranpour@ms.umanitoba.ca</a>
<b>Youth Encouragement</b>	Kristin Hynes	<a href="mailto:kristin.hynes@gmail.com">kristin.hynes@gmail.com</a>
<b>Archives</b>	Rob Roughley	<a href="mailto:rob_roughley@umanitoba.ca">rob_roughley@umanitoba.ca</a>
<b>Scholarships &amp; Awards</b>	Richard Westwood	<a href="mailto:r.westwood@uwinnipeg.ca">r.westwood@uwinnipeg.ca</a>
<b>Fund-Raising</b>	Joel Gosselin	<a href="mailto:jgosselin@viceroydistributors.ca">jgosselin@viceroydistributors.ca</a>
<b>Nominating</b>	Rheal Lafreniere	<a href="mailto:rlafrenier@gov.mb.ca">rlafrenier@gov.mb.ca</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Desiree Vanderwel	<a href="mailto:d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca">d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca</a>
<b>Scrutineer</b>	Colin Demianyk	<a href="mailto:cdemianyk@agr.gc.ca">cdemianyk@agr.gc.ca</a>
<b>Web Page</b>	Rob Currie	<a href="mailto:Rob_Currie@umanitoba.ca">Rob_Currie@umanitoba.ca</a>