



Minutes from the 488th Meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society

May 20, 2011

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Physics Building, Room 130

Pre-meeting pizza and beverages were available to attendees beginning at 6:30pm.

Business meeting: The meeting was called to order by President Richard Cowles at approximately 8pm. This was Rich's last meeting as president.

Reports: The secretary's report of the 487th meeting was read by Leonard Munstermann. It was approved as read. The treasurer's report was read by Mike Montgomery and approved.

Old Business: None offered

New Business/Announcements:

- Mike Montgomery noted a Connecticut Wildlife magazine article written by Laura Saucier on native pollinators.
- Leonard Munstermann noted that we should be announcing publications and articles produced by the membership, for example the work done by the Cicada group from Uconn, John Cooley's interview on Science Friday and Mike Montgomery's recent publication. Let the secretary know and it can be announced at the meeting.
- Laura Saucier announced the upcoming invasive plant removal work party scheduled to restore a northern metalmark site on May 31, 2011.
- Raul Ferreira announced the Rhode Island BioBlitz scheduled for June 10-11, 2011 at the Joslin site.
- Mike Thomas announced the Mount Greylock BioBlitz scheduled for June 10-11, 2011 in Massachusetts.
- Leonard announced the Peabody's exhibit featuring Mike Thomas' photographs May 28-January 1, 2012. The exhibit also features live colonies of mosquitoes and bed bugs. The following Thursday will be the opening gala for the exhibit 5pm-7:30pm.

Evening Presentation:

Jillian Cowles provided a fascinating presentation titled *Non-spider Arachnids*. She is noted for her high quality macrophotography of flowers, insects and arachnids near her home in Vale, Arizona. The presentation focused on the many non-spider arachnids she has encountered in the southwestern United States with fantastic photos. Following are some of the highlights:

Scorpions-They have book lungs. They have the ability to concentrate heavy metals (zinc, manganese and iron) in their stinger and other parts of their bodies. Have compound eyes with migrating pigment granules (that act like sunglasses). Their mouth parts are able to grip and manipulate their prey to drip digestive juices on. They will only ingest liquefied food from prey. This method of feeding also means that they carry very few internal parasites. They have live birth and will assist their offspring onto their back. After their first molt the offspring are on their own. Scorpions fluoresce; one hypothesis is that it functions as UV protection though they are now nocturnal hunters. As a general rule, in North America, little claws=more venomous, big claws=less venomous.

Pseudoscorpions-These are key animals in caves. They produce silk and "milk" from their ovaries. They will hitch-hike on other fauna to disperse. The cave dwellers tend to have long attenuated arms for sensing in the dark.

Solifuges-They are characterized by huge palps that look like arms and are very fierce looking. They are non-venomous. They do not have book lungs, they are tracheal. They do have racquet organs, which are chemosensory structures, that look similar to book lungs on scorpions. They are very fast moving.

Vinegruns/whip scorpions-These animals are not venomous. They actually spray a solution of 84% acetic acid and 5% caprillic acid. They court like scorpions, promenade aux deux. They have very long mating rituals. There is maternal sharing of food with offspring. This is interesting given that the female has been fasting for approximately 6 months.

Micro-whip scorpions- Are very small (about 1 mm). Not much is known about them. They are difficult to photograph.

Harvestmen-What we think of as "daddy long-legs". They actually consume chunks of food. They are omnivorous, eating fungus, seeds and carrion. They are known to congregate together and it will look like a toupe stuck to a rock. 70,000 individuals have been documented in a single congregation.

**Note: Corrections and additions to the minutes are welcomed. Please email
Laura.Saucier@ct.gov.**