

Insectary Notes

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006



Editor's Overview

Another year draws to a close and we are still busy in the survey business. The overwintering surveys for blackheaded budworm, spruce budworm, whitemarked tussock moth, balsam fir sawfly, hemlock looper, and jack pine budworm are underway. We'll be watching the weather for field collecting on good days and lab work on bad days.

The preliminary results from the gypsy moth surveys are in. Maps on page 4 show the collections.

Jeff has completed a year-end summary of the West Nile Virus survey. Although we still have mosquitoes in Nova Scotia (I don't think that will ever change!), the good news is that the mosquitoes that were sent for WNV testing all came back negative for the virus. For more details see Jeff's article on page 5.

Bob has mapped the results of the spruce budworm pheromone trap survey. The map and write-up are on page 6.

I hope everyone has a chance to relax and spend some time with family and friends over the next few weeks.

'Til next time,
Happy New Year

Jacqui

Caution: An incorrigible punster -- don't incorrige.

Insectary Notes - Electronic Copies

Just a reminder that the newsletter is available by email. Not only will you get your copy a few days earlier, you'll also be able to see the colour on our maps.

Email Jacqui Gordon at
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if you'd like to receive the newsletter by email.

INSECTARY

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Say What and Quotes . . .

Universal Truths of Life

By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

Advertising Mix-Ups (aka "It sounded like a good idea at the time.")

Coors put its slogan, "Turn it loose," into Spanish, where it was read as "Suffer from diarrhea."

Clairol introduced the "Mist Stick," a curling iron, into German only to find out that "mist" is slang for manure. Not too many people had use for the "manure stick."

An American T-shirt maker in Miami printed shirts for the Spanish market which promoted the Pope's visit. Instead of "I saw the Pope" (el Papa), the shirts read "I saw the potato" (la papa).

And remember . . .

If you ain't makin' waves, you ain't kickin' hard enough!

Holiday Traditions? The 12 Thank You Notes of the Season

I must admit that I love the holiday season but am very negligent in writing thank-you notes. I found this collection of notes and thought they were worth sharing.

December 25th

My dearest darling Edward,
What a wonderful surprise has just greeted me! That sweet partridge, in that lovely little pear-tree; what an enchanting, romantic, poetic present! Bless you, and thank you.
Your deeply loving,
Emily

December 26th

Beloved Edward,
The two turtle-doves arrived this morning, and are cooing away in the pear-tree as I write. I'm so touched and grateful!
With undying love, as always,
Emily

December 27th

My darling Edward,
You do think of the most original presents! Whoever thought of sending anybody three French hens? Do they really come all the way from France? It's a pity we have no chicken coops, but I expect we'll find some. Anyway, thank-you so much; they're lovely.
Your devoted,
Emily

December 28th

Dearest Edward,
What a surprise! Four calling birds arrived this morning. They are very sweet, even if they do call rather loudly - they make telephoning almost impossible - but I expect they'll calm down when they get used to their new home. Anyway, I'm very grateful, of course I am.
Love from Emily

December 29th

Dearest Edward,
The mailman has just delivered five most beautiful gold rings, one for each finger, and all fitting perfectly! A really lovely present! Lovelier, in a way, than birds, which do take rather a lot of looking after. The four that arrived yesterday are still making a terrible row, and I'm afraid none of us got much sleep last night. Mother says she wants to use the rings to "wring" their necks. Mother has such a sense of

humour. This time she's only joking, I think, but I do know what she means. Still, I love the rings.
Bless you,
Emily

December 30th

Dear Edward,
Whatever I expected to find when I opened the front door this morning, it certainly wasn't six socking great geese laying eggs all over the porch. Frankly, I rather hoped that you had stopped sending me birds. We have no room for them, and they've already ruined the croquet lawn. I know you meant well, but let's call a halt, shall we?
Love,
Emily

December 31st

Edward,
I thought I said NO MORE BIRDS. This morning I woke up to find no more than seven swans, all trying to get into our tiny goldfish pond. I'd rather not think what's happened to the goldfish. The whole house seems to be full of birds, to say nothing of what they leave behind them, so please, please, stop!
Your Emily

January 1st

Frankly, I prefer the birds. What am I to do with eight milkmaids? And their cows! Is this some kind of a joke? If so, I'm afraid I don't find it very amusing.
Emily

January 2nd

Look here, Edward,
This has gone far enough. You say you're sending me nine ladies dancing. All I can say is, judging from the way they dance, they're certainly not ladies. The village just isn't accustomed to seeing a regiment of shameless viragos, with nothing on but their lipstick, cavorting round the green, and it's mother and I who get the blame. If you value our friendship, which I do (less and less), kindly stop this ridiculous behaviour at once!
Emily

January 3rd

As I write this letter, 10 disgusting old men are prancing up and down all over what used to be the garden, before the geese and the swans and the cows got at it. And several of them, I have just noticed, are being a nuisance with the milkmaids. Meanwhile, the neighbours are trying to have us evicted. I shall never speak to you again.
Emily

January 4th

This is the last straw! You know I detest bagpipes! The place has now become something between a menagerie and a madhouse, and a man from the council has just declared it unfit for habitation. At least Mother has been spared this last outrage; they took her away yesterday afternoon in an ambulance to a home for the bewildered. I hope you're satisfied.

January 5th

Sir,
Our client, Miss Emily Wilbraham, instructs me to inform you that with the arrival on her premises at 7:30 this morning of the entire percussion section of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and several of their friends, she has no course left open to her but to seek an injunction to prevent you importuning her further. I am making arrangements for the return of much assorted livestock.
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
G. Dunstan
Attorney at law

Provincial Entomologist's Overview
..... **What's The Buzz?**

Novelist Kahlil Gibran once said, "perplexity is the beginning of knowledge." If this is true, then I'm off to one heck of a great beginning as the new provincial entomologist.

These last few weeks have been nothing short of baptism by fire. I've been in the field surveying for brown spruce longhorn beetle, presented a talk at the Forest Pest Management Forum in Ottawa and even survived my first staff meeting. I've loved every minute of it and can't wait to see what's going to happen next!

Until next time,
Gina

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Bits and Pieces

Winter Insects

Jacqui Gordon

What happens to the insects if we have a warm winter? A cold winter? Insects are notoriously adaptable . . . some will thrive in a warm winter, some in a cold one. The hardest winter on insects is one of freezing and thawing since their bodies have no way to regulate their temperature.

You'll still see insects around in winter. Snow fleas, cutworm larvae, ladybugs, cluster flies, letting you know, "See you in the Spring."

Project Updates

Gypsy Moth Surveys

Jacqui Gordon

Two gypsy moth surveys were done during in the 2006 field season.

In early July 2006, IPM placed burlap skirts in Parrsboro, Amherst, and Five Islands. The skirts are placed to provide shelter for and to attract any gypsy moth larvae that may be on the tree. These traps were checked three times from the beginning of July to beginning of September. Larvae and pupae were found in Parrsboro.

Pest Detection Officers and IPM staff put out two types of gypsy moth traps. The delta traps are used in towns that are outside of the CFIA Regulated Zone. The permanent (multi-pher) traps are used across the province to get a yearly snapshot of the population.

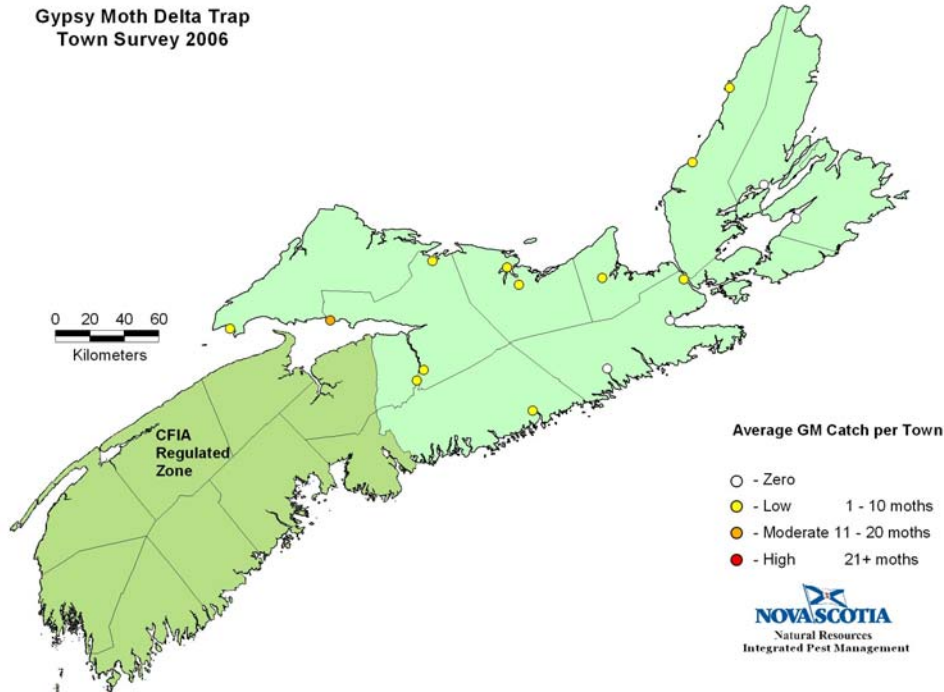


Figure 1. Gypsy moth delta trap survey results, 2006.

Five Islands was the only town surveyed to have an average trap catch within the moderate category. All other towns were either in the low or zero category.

The CFIA monitored Parrsboro, Amherst, and Truro. There were egg masses found in Parrsboro, Amherst, and Truro. I contacted the acting Regional Plant Protection Officer to find out if the CFIA is going to adjust the Regulated Zone for gypsy moth. They are still considering the expansion of the GM regulated area because of the egg mass finds outside of the current regulated area. This decision is not final and will be discussed at the annual forestry meeting this winter.

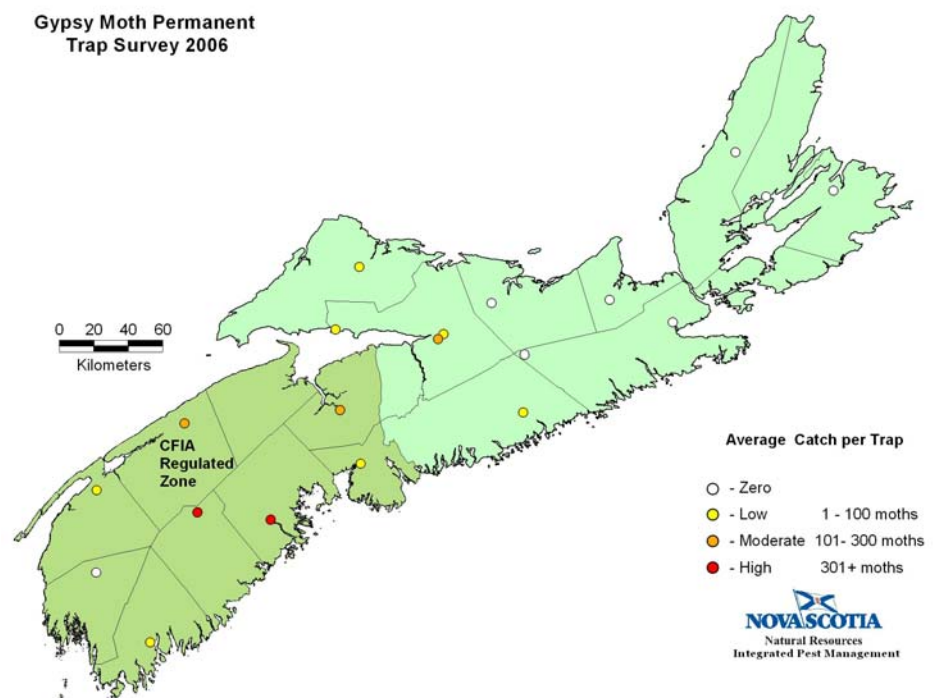


Figure 2. Gypsy moth permanent (multi-pher) trap results, 2006.

Project Updates (contd.)

Summary of the 2006 West Nile Virus Mosquito Surveillance

Jeff Ogden

In 2006 permanent sample sites were selected on the basis of human population density; proximity to mosquito habitat; migratory bird densities and previous WNV activity. The Annapolis Valley was selected again in 2006. Ten sites from Grand Pre to Kingston, including the Annapolis First Nation, near Cambridge and the Glooscap First Nation, near Hantsport were sampled from July 1 to October 1. Sites were sampled biweekly with CDC carbon dioxide baited light traps.

Catch results varied widely by location and time of year. Similar to previous years of surveillance, the most dominate species were *Mansonia perturbans*, *Aedes cantator* and *Culex pipiens*. The village of New Minas remained the site with the highest collection averages, but dramatic increases were also noted in Grand Pre, Kentville and Wolfville. *C. pipiens* collections were only slightly above previous year's numbers throughout the season, with a dramatic peak the first week of August. (Data lacking for second August trapping night due to trap malfunctions and time restraints).

Testing of *Culex* spp. mosquitoes began July 1 following the collection of enough *Culex* to sample (greater than 2-3 per trap). Collections continued until October 1. A total of ten (10) pools of mosquitoes were sent for testing to the National Microbiology Laboratory, in Winnipeg. All specimens were negative.

**Average Culex Trap Collections
2004-2006**

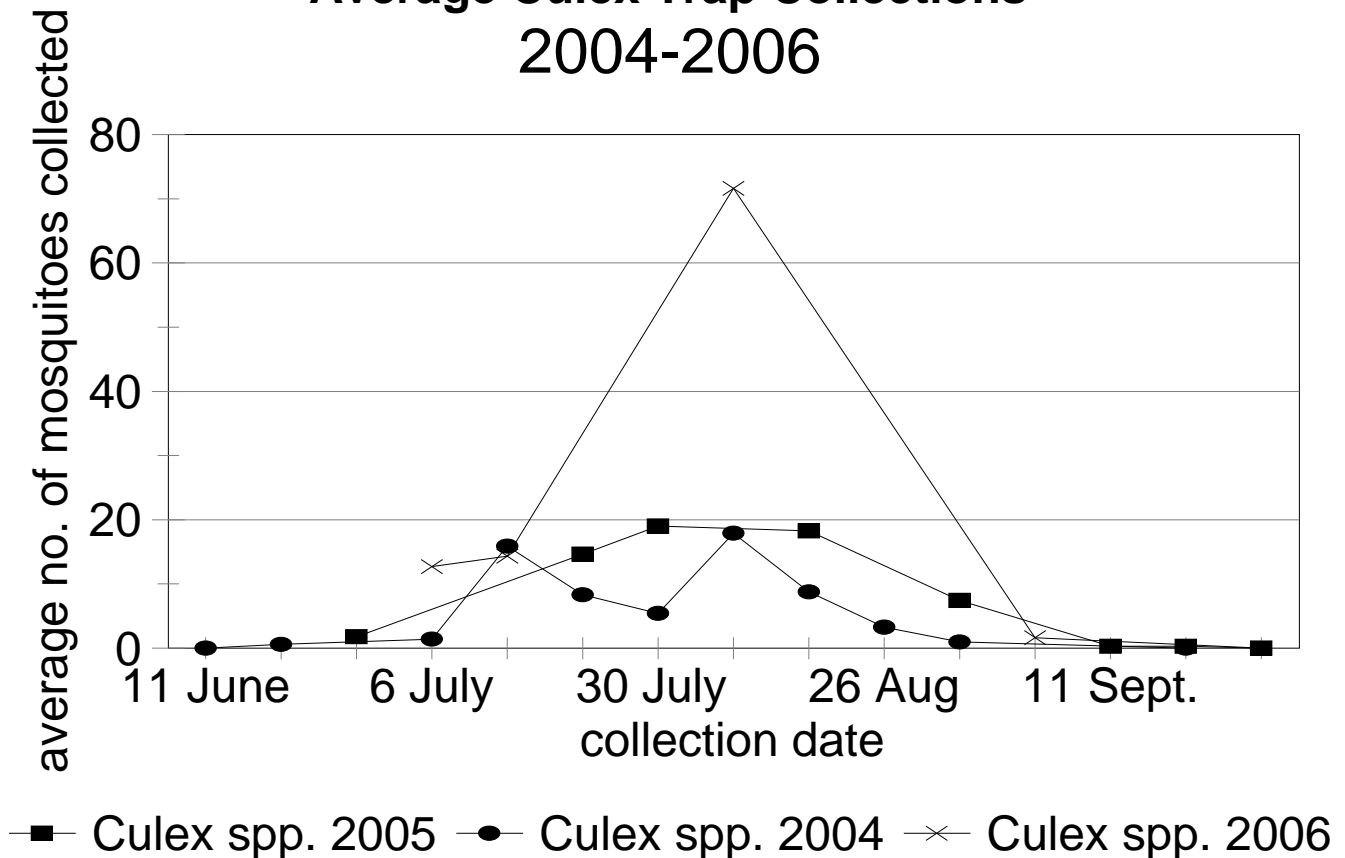


Figure 3. Average *Culex* sp. trap collections, 2004 - 2006.

Project Updates (contd)

Spruce Budworm Pheromone Trap Survey 2006

Bob Guscott

Spruce budworm sex pheromone traps are used to monitor low density populations of spruce budworm. A catch of over 100 moths is usually considered the threshold to trigger more intensive sampling. This year the total number of positive traps (26) was down from last year (33) with very low trap catches (5 or less). From the table below you can see that the trend of positive traps is gradually going up. Spruce budworm populations are rising in Ontario and Quebec. This year, as in other years, we will collect foliage from each positive trap location to sample for overwintering (L-2) larvae. The L-2 survey will be conducted over the next six weeks. Spruce budworm larvae are very rare these days in Nova Scotia. The last time we found larvae in the L-2 survey was in 1994.

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF SPRUCE BUDWORM TRAP CATCHES AND L-2 COLLECTED FROM 2002 TO 2006.

YEAR	Positive Traps	Highest Trap Catch	L-2 Found
2006	26	5	to be announced
2005	33	21	0
2004	11	38	0
2003	8	8	0
2002	5	23	0

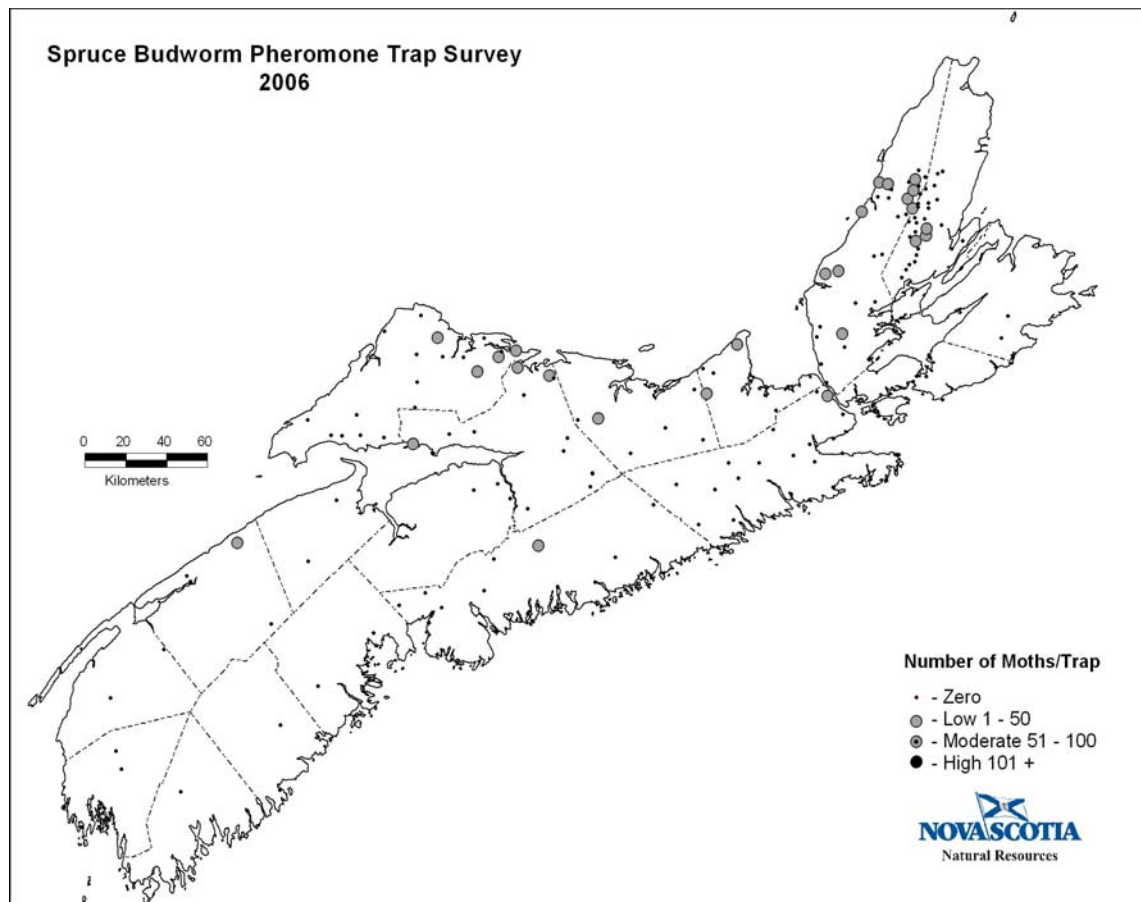


Figure 4. Spruce budworm pheromone trap survey results, 2006.