

FIRST, & FUTURE INFORMAL FIELD MEETINGS OF AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGISTS OF NORTHWEST NORTH AMERICA

Being thoroughly disappointed at having to miss the 1974 Lunz Symposium, and having discovered that there were quite a few people, very few of whom I had met, in western Canada and the northwestern U.S.A. with whom I had corresponded regarding Trichoptera, it occurred to me to try and organise a more 'local' meeting.

Just before Christmas, 1974, I sent out an enquiry to 12 people (counting myself), scattered from North Dakota and Manitoba to Oregon and British Columbia. Ten replied, of which 5 were actually able to attend. General interest was expressed, but some had other commitments, and others could not come at the last moment.

My suggestion was for a strictly informal field meeting, with no papers. Simply collecting, learning of each other's work and interests, and meeting each other, generally for the first time. It was to be a camping trip as I proposed an initial gathering point in the 'wilds' of the Alberta foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Those attending had to be completely self-sufficient. Mid-August seemed to suit most people best, and it was arranged to meet on the evening of Thursday, August 14, and for the next three days. I supplied detailed maps, pinpointing the initial meeting place (a public campground), and the approach routes from the major highways.

The location chosen was on the upper reaches of the Red Deer River, northwest of Calgary, and outside Banff National Park. The first full day was spent in an area of grassland between the foothills and mountains, with a good selection of aquatic habitats. The weather co-operated splendidly. The second and third days were spent traveling and collecting northwards, up what is known as the Forestry Trunk Road. This gravel road runs northwestward along the foothills and parallel to the mountains, crossing many watersheds. Adult material, surprisingly for the time of year, was scarce, but immatures were abundant. The weather was cool, overcast, with fine rain, obscuring much fine scenery which I had hoped to show off.

A wide variety of aquatic organisms were found, primarily Trichoptera, Ephemeroptera, and Plecoptera. While a common interest in Trichoptera was the basis for the meeting, only two of us were primarily Trichopterists. One was an Ephemeropterist, and the other two were 'aquatic generalists'. As a result of this mixture, I believe that we all learned from each other.

I was asked on the evening of the first day, when the next such meeting would be held ! And would it be annual, biennial, or what ? I like to regard this as a mark of the success of

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the idea. Consequently, the second, of what may become an annual meeting has been proposed. A letter has already been sent out to the original mailing list (with several recent additions), summing-up the 1975 meet, and proposing a 1976 meet. I suggest three days in mid-July, meeting on Thursday evening again, for three days, and in the same area. This year's members seemed keen to return to the same area, and it will be new to newcomers. Anyone interested is invited, and may obtain full details by writing to me.

The 'founding' members, at the 1975 meet, were as follows: John Flannagan: Freshwater Institute, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Roland Wickstrom: Canadian Wildlife Service, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Steve Harris: Biology Dept., University of North Dakota, U.S.A.; Doug Smith: Biology Dept., University of Saskatchewan, Canada; and myself,

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HAGENELLA CLATHRATA (KOL.) (PHRYGANEIDAE)

I wonder whether any workers in Europe have larvae of Hagenella clathrata that could be loaned or exchanged. Thus far, my efforts to obtain specimens for study have not been very successful, although this is not unexpected since the species appears from literature references to be very local in occurrence. Of the five species known in the genus, larvae are known only for H. clathrata. I have larvae that could be those of the North American H. canadensis (Banks), but in the absence of any positive evidence of association, an opportunity to compare them with H. clathrata would be helpful in assigning these specimens to a tentative position in my key to larvae of the North American genera.

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