

COLLECTING TRIP TO THE YUKON TERRITORY

Last June, 1996, two Texans, Ken Stewart and John Abbott, ventured up North to one of the last great frontiers in North America on a week-long stonefly expedition. We flew into Fairbanks, Alaska late on the night of June 19 where we met Mark Oswood from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. We were immediately introduced to two of the things Alaska is famous for; long days, it was perfectly light at midnight, and the mosquitoes which gave us no mercy as we walked from the airport terminal to the car.

Dr. Oswood graciously arranged for us to use a four-wheel drive suburban on our trek across Northwestern Canada. We stocked up on supplies and started out on our journey by noon the next day. We headed southeast towards Tetlin Junction and then back North on the "Top of the World Highway" (Taylor Highway) towards Dawson and the beginning of the Dempster Highway. The Dempster is one of only two roads in North America that cross the Arctic Circle. It is a scenic 395 km north to Inuvik on this road. We collected nearly every stream and river, including the Klondike, Blackstone, Ogilvie, Peel and Mackenzie crossing this rugged terrain. By pure chance we found ourselves camping on the Arctic Circle the night of the Summer Solstice (June 22). After making our way back down the Dempster Highway, we continued heading south on the Klondike Highway collecting at such fortuitous sites as the Stewart River at Stewart Crossing. From here we headed east on the Robert Campbell Highway, a definite contender for "dustiest road in North America," until we reached the Ross River where we headed north on the Canol Road as far as possible. Much of the road was closed due to a forest fire. Continuing our trek south, again collecting every stream we came across, we landed in Watson Lake, from where we headed back west to Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon. On our way back North we connected up the Alaska Highway and enjoyed scenery like the Saint Elias Mountains, Kluane Lake and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge that only the far North can produce. We arrived back in Fairbanks on the 29th for a couple of days of relaxation before flying

back to Dallas. This trip was one of the last in a series to document the diversity of stoneflies in Alaska and Northwestern Canada for a book being written by Ken Stewart and Mark Oswood. The book will extend knowledge of western Nearctic stonefly distributions particularly in Alaska, British Columbia, the Yukon and western portions of the Northwest Territories.

We have identified material from only about 10% of these collections to date, and have good series of the following species.

Alloperla serrata Needham & Claassen
Alloperla severa (Hagen)
Arcynopteryx compacta (McLachlan)
Capnia confusa Claassen
Capnia nearctica Banks
Capnia pileata Jewett
Diura knowltoni (Frison)
Eucapnopsis brevicauda Claassen
Hesperoperla pacifica (Banks)
Isocapnia grandis (Banks)
Isogenoides colubrinus (Hagen)
Isoperla decolorata (Walker)
Isoperla petersoni Needham & Christensen
Nemoura arctica Esben-Peterson
Paraleuctra occidentalis (Banks)
Perlomyia utahensis Needham & Claassen
Plumiperla diversa (Frison)
Pteronarcella badia (Hagen)
Pteronarcys dorsata (Say)
Sweltsa coloradensis (Banks)
Taenionema pacificum (Banks)
Taenionema pallidum (Banks)
Triznaka signata (Banks)
Utaperla sopladora Ricker

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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