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.

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Editors' Comments

Now that we're past mid-September and summer is officially ending, this issue is taking its final form. Only a few of the members of ESM are still collecting field data in a big way, and most of the rest (but by no means all – some do carry out winter field work: hardy folk!) will be wrapping up soon. The season for meetings will begin shortly. In this issue you will find, right after a **word from your President**, the notice for this year's **ESM Annual Meeting**. We hope to see you all there. Following the meeting notice, is your introduction to a **new member, Barbara Sharanowski** (so new that she may not have paid her membership dues yet). Alicia Leroux writes about the **Entomology collecting trip** that she was instrumental in organizing. There's a report from the **Youth Encouragement Committee**, and a request for volunteers for their education program: it's great fun going out with them, so why not give them a call and try it. Heather Flynn (formerly Heather White) writes about the **COSEWIC subcommittee** with responsibility for insects. **Bob Wrigley** writes about yet another of his fascinating and productive collecting trips. Then there's an advertisement for **another new position** in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba. And finally, you will find the regular closing items, a list of **upcoming meetings** and a list of the Society's **officers and committee chairs**. Hope you enjoy this issue, and we'll "talk" to you again in three or four months, by which time we will be in the depths of winter.

Pat MacKay & Mahmood Iranpour

And now, a message from your President…

Our ESM Annual Meeting is just around the corner – Friday 22 October at Freshwater Institute and Saturday 23 October at the University of Manitoba Department of Entomology, with the theme "Monitoring Insect Abundance". The keynote speaker will be Dr Maya Evenden from the University of Alberta, speaking on "The use of pheromones for detection, prediction and multispecies monitoring of lepidopterous pests". Dr Evenden is also this year's President of the Entomological Society of Canada. On Saturday morning the symposium will explore techniques used to monitor insects in stored grain, field crops, forests and urban environments. Plan to attend – hope to see you there!

This is my last column as ESM President. The year has passed quickly as usual, but it has been a productive year. After a highly successful Joint Annual Meeting with the ESC, we had two well attended Social events and many presentations by the Youth Encouragement Committee. But so much of the Society's work goes on "behind the scenes" – editing and publishing the Proceedings of the ESM; keeping the Society's finances in order; planning and organizing our Annual Meeting; producing this Newsletter;…. A big "Thank You" goes out to all of you who organized and participated in all of these activities and events.

Many of you may think that the President is a very busy person, but actually it is the Secretary, Treasurer and the Committees that keep all these activities going. The President's job is to chair the Annual Business Meeting and a couple of Executive meetings, but mainly to act as a focus of communication among the Executive members and Committees by being aware of their plans, activities and any issues that may arise. One issue that arose last year was the need to re-visit our By-Laws and Committee guidelines, so an Ad Hoc Committee was set up and their work is on-going.

So if you are approached and asked to consider being a candidate for ESM President, please regard this as an opportunity to serve your Society by watching everyone else work while you delegate. If you have been involved in the ESM for a couple of years and are interested in the Society's activities and are good at organizing, then you are qualified.

Marjorie Smith
marjorie.smith@agr.gc.ca

Entomological Society of Manitoba 2010 Annual Meeting

A total of 22 presentations will be made at the Entomological Society of Manitoba's annual meetings on October 22 and 23 in Winnipeg. There will be a keynote address to open up the meetings, followed by 17 submitted papers. The morning of Saturday October 23rd will be a symposium on insect monitoring, consisting of 4 speakers. Below is a list of the keynote and symposium speakers.

Keynote Address, Friday morning October 22

The use of pheromones for detection, prediction and multispecies monitoring of lepidopterous pests. **Dr. Maya Evenden**, Department Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

Symposium: Insect monitoring, Saturday morning, October 23 (4 speakers)

City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch, More Than Just Mosquitoes: urban and invasive pest species Surveillance and Control Programs. **Taz Stuart**, City Entomologist, 1539 Waverley St., Winnipeg, MB.

Monitoring forest pests in Manitoba. **Irene Pines**, Forest Health Biologist, Manitoba Conservation

Keeping tabs on insects in prairie crops – monitoring and predicting insect distribution and abundance. **Ross Weiss**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon.

Finding a Needle in the Haystack: Density Estimation and Detection of Insect in Grain Silos. **Dr. Fuji Jian**, Grain Storage Specialist, Department of Biosystems Engineering, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

MEMBER NEWS – A NEW MEMBER
Barbara Sharanowski

My voyage into the wonderful world of entomology might be described as atypical. My university career began with an aspiration to be a forensic pathologist (likely inspired by my favorite show Quincy). But, as I began to take classes in university I was fascinated by human culture, both past and present, and switched my major from anatomy to anthropology and archaeology. I was inspired by a wonderful teacher, Dr. Ernest Walker at the University of Saskatchewan, who was a forensic archeologist with a strong interest in present and prehistoric cultures of aboriginal peoples on the Prairies. While completing my degree, I decided to take some elective entomology classes to round out my education. It was clear that insects rivaled humans for being the most fascinating life forms on the planet. When an opportunity arose to do a Master's project in forensic entomology, I jumped at the chance.

Supervised by Dr. Walker (with help from Dr. Gail Anderson at Simon Fraser University), I completed a large study on insect succession on pig carrion in the Prairie Ecozone of Saskatchewan. In a span of seven months I had placed 42 pig carcasses in the different environmental variables and spent that year apologizing for that "weird smell" and the massive increase in fly populations around campus. At the completion of the field work, I began to tackle the most difficult part of the project − identifying the thousands of insects I had collected and reared. I was only able to identify to species those insects that had been extensively studied and adequately described by taxonomists. A myriad of questions arose − who decides what a species is and why; what morphological characters are used to distinguish species and why; and why were there not more taxonomists working on describing the most diverse group of animals on the planet? Determined to answer some of these questions, I decided to delve into the world of systematic entomology.

I began my Ph.D. working on the taxonomy and systematics of Braconidae under Dr. Michael Sharkey at the University of Kentucky. Naively, I thought parasitic Hymenoptera could certainly not be as difficult as dealing with brachyceran chaetotaxy. I could not have been more wrong. However, being understudied, highly diverse, biologically fascinating, and anthropogenically important, braconids were an excellent choice to study for a career in taxonomy and systematics. Later my dissertation work took an interesting turn towards phylogenomics, and I began investigating the utility of expressed sequence tags (ESTs) to examine higher-level phylogenetic relationships across Hymenoptera. This research led me to a post-doc at North Carolina State University, where I worked on molecular systematics of Evanioidea under Dr. Andy Deans. The voyage from anthropologist to insect systematist has certainly been fascinating and rewarding, and today I continue to work on Hymenopteran phylogenomics and braconid taxonomy and systematics. I am thrilled to be joining the faculty in Canada's only entomology department at the University of Manitoba, and definitely have big shoes to fill!

An ESM Collecting Trip: Fall 2010
ByAlicia Leroux

At the first field site, Bob Wrigley is teaching us about the amazing fauna of Carberry Sandhills. Photo credit: Pat MacKay.

Enchanting, a word that describes some of the specimens Bob Wrigley generously displayed at the New Members Social 19th May at Triple B's. It was during the display that some of us contracted *Collectionus envyus* Wrigley, 2010. In awe of the specimens Bob Wrigley chose to share with us that evening we came up with a possible solution to our *C. envyus* – a collecting trip with Bob Wrigley. It was realized most of the large colourful beetles were not from Manitoba, but we were just as interested in the beetles right here in our own 'back yard'. The destination of our adventure began in the Carberry Sandhills area. The flora and fauna in this area are unique for Manitoba due to the sandy nature of the substrate which formed from the recession of glacial Lake Agassiz. It was because of distinctive ecology of the area that we chose this as our collection site.

A Northern Prairie skink at the first field site, the fire tower. Photo credit: Pat MacKay.

We started the morning abruptly, partly because the brakes on the truck were touchier than what most were accustomed to, and it was early. After the trucks were all loaded and everyone was accounted for, we were off! Site number one was named 'fire tower', after the fire tower which once stood in the area. To reach the sandy areas where tiger beetles would be more readily encountered we squeezed through a barbed-wire fence. Along the trail we found several interesting grasshoppers and some spider wasps. Bob Wrigley showed us wooden boards placed on the ground to create habitats for larger creatures. We were fortunate to find the Northern Prairie skink and the Smooth Green snake inhabiting the space under these boards.

A smooth green snake found at the first field site, the fire tower. Photo credit: Pat MacKay.

With the sighting of these two beautiful creatures our moods were elevated because up to this point we had seen more empty shotgun shells than insects: the area is close to the field training for the Canadian military. We had not seen any tiger beetles until we were on our way out of the first site, when we came across the tiger beetle on the ESM logo, *Cicindela generosa manitoba* Shortly after the sighting of our first tiger beetle the group moved on to our second collection site in Spirit Sands.

First, before finding more interesting flora and fauna, we needed to eat. Once on the trail the strong winds blew sand into places we did not know sand could go when one is fully clothed. The wind strength was intermittent and in-between gusting sessions we were able to see sand wasps, spider wasps, scarab beetles, and several species of tiger beetles!

Not only did we see interesting fauna, but we were able to see interesting flora, even cacti! The trail through the Spirit Sands took longer than we had anticipated as we wandered to chase insects, watching them with envy and wonderment. Nearing the end of the trip we came across a tricky dragonfly in some trees, able to out manoeuvre all of our sweep nets. Yes, ALL of our sweep nets. It did make for an interesting scene, a handful of entomologists with nets running and jumping through the forest, stopping to find the only thing we caught was our breath. Most of us have never wondered why we seem strange to on lookers; this scene would be a perfect example. At least the dried exoskeletons of the summer's cicadas proved more of a worthy adversary. It does help when the prey is not moving. After being outwitted by a dragonfly we moved onto our next goal, the trucks for some much needed water. After rehydrating and removing some sand we headed back to Winnipeg to enjoy the hospitality of Neil and Lynda Holliday who provided a warm atmosphere with tasty and satisfying food.

Most of the group walking through Spirit Sands. Photo credit: Neil Holliday.

A tiger beetle found along the trail in Spirit Sands. Photo credit: Neil Holliday.

The day brought us face to face with several interesting specimens of the flora and fauna with a few sightings of insects some had not been privileged to see before. Thank you to all those who participated: Bob Wrigley, Neil Holliday, Pat Mackay, Bob Lamb, Erica Smith, Kristin Hynes, Mark Wrigley, John Christie, Tina Singh-Kang, and Jessica Harrison. As well, thank you to Bob Wrigley for his knowledge and teachings of the area and Neil and Lynda Holliday for feeding us, very hungry entomologists.

Group picture of the entomologists outwitted by a single dragonfly. Photo credit: Pat MacKay.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES – YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Is there anything more fulfilling than talking about the things you love, and in doing so, seeing the smiles on kids' faces get bigger and bigger? Maybe hamburgers, they can be quite good … Oh wait! that's filling, not fulfilling! If you enjoy talking about insects, whether sharing anecdotes or knowledge, most likely both, then we encourage you to help out with the ESM's Youth Encouragement Committee!

As a volunteer-based program, we bring pinned and live insects to schools and daycare centres. We generally begin our presentation with a basic entomology PowerPoint slideshow, adapted to grade-level covering basic insect anatomy and development. We also discuss insects that are harmful and beneficial, with particular emphasis on species found in Manitoba, followed by what kids look forward to the most: live insects! Although the majority of children are thrilled by the experience and can't wait to tell their friends and family that they've held a stick insect and a cockroach, some are always a little hesitant, and enjoy watching from a distance! For us, it is always fun to see the different reactions from children, and it is very rewarding to watch the gradual build in interest with children that claim they "don't like bugs!"

Environmental education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment. It fosters attitudes, motivation, responsibility, and children will model your attitudes and actions toward caring for the environment. Young children are full of wonder and curiosity with anything that you bring into the classroom, and they will connect and learn best about nature through real interactions with it!

The Youth Encouragement team is committed to furthering education outreach related to entomology, and what better way to do your part than by taking a leadership role and sharing your interest with children. From butterflies to bugs, there are more insects on our planet than any other creature, and so we urge you to take part in this wonderful opportunity to educate children on the wonderful world of insects!

If you would like to be part of our team, please send an e-mail to umveillj@cc.umanitoba.ca. We will make sure to let you know about upcoming presentations.

Jonathan Veilleux and Cherie Dugal
Youth Encouragement Committee

COSEWIC Arthropod Species Specialist Subcommittee Update

By Heather Flynn

The Arthropod subcommittee which is part of the larger Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) was in Yellowknife, NWT, July 7-10, 2010 for its annual meeting. The meeting consisted of several activities, and included: an information night for new members, a public outreach activity for local families and nature enthusiasts held at the Museum of Yellowknife, a professional development field day at Daring Lake, and days of rigorous boardroom discussions.

For “Bug Night”, several families and committee members gathered at the Yellowknife Museum for an evening of bug collecting around the facility and its surrounding ponds. Laurence Packer and Rob Bennett gave presentations on Bee and Spider diversity. The event was very successful with more than 50 kids and their families attending the free activities and talks by the experts. All of the Arthropod subcommittee members were in attendance, and provided assistance and collecting equipment.

A one day field trip was organized for us to travel by float plane to the Daring Lake field camp which is located in the Tundra ecosystem. The remote field camp is about 350 km north of Yellowknife. Several thousand *Simulium venustum* and *S. vittatum* greeted us upon our arrival. The fauna was insatiable! I suggest you pack a heavy duty bug suit (like the head to toe kind) if you intend to visit Daring Lake. Most of the entomologists were indifferent to the local blood thirsty fauna, and quickly dispersed onto the Tundra for a delightful day of collecting and observing the nature of the area. The field camp is a professional and inviting facility. I recommend that anyone considering Tundra field work in the NWT consider using the field camp. It is very well organized and set up with many creature comforts, including lab space. Plus it is a leader in sustainable camp design with its own wind turbine, solar panels, and sewage treatment capabilities.
You can learn more about Daring Lake at:
http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Tundra_Ecosystem_Research_Station.aspx

The subcommittee also worked for a solid two days, deliberating over species status designations, risk assessments and the ranking of candidate species for commissioning new status reports. The subcommittee encourages all members of the entomology community to consider recommending an insect species which may be at risk or threatened in Canada, for review and possible selection for the commissioning status reports.

I want to mention that Suzanne Carriere, of the Canadian Wildlife Services was instrumental in organizing the “Bug Night at the Museum” and the field trip to Daring Lake. She is a great contact person for anyone interested in doing field work in the NWT. I highly recommend getting in touch with Suzanne to discuss your plans as she is an expert biologist and very experienced in the region.

If you have any questions about COSEWIC or would like to submit a species for consideration at the next annual meeting please contact me, Heather Flynn by February 2011. You can reach me at work at heather.flynn@ceaa-acee.gc.ca or at home at hwhite69@hotmail.com.

TIGER BEETLE TRIP TO MIDWEST USA -- APRIL 2008
By Robert E. Wrigley and Todd Lawton

Part 1 of 2 parts: Editors' Note: For **Part 2** see the next issue, 37.3, of the ESM Newsletter.

This account describes a collecting trip to six states in the United States from April 18 to 25, 2008, with the aim of capturing spring tiger beetles and other insects at a number of previously visited and new sites. Discovering populations of spring-active tigers beetles is often challenging at this time of year due to unreliable weather conditions (especially at higher elevations), and this April was certainly no exception. Spring was late arriving across much of North America, with unseasonably cold and wet conditions, and snow storms and lingering drifts across much of the Midwest right to the end of April and into May at some localities; in fact it is snowing in Winnipeg as I begin writing this on May 4. We were fortunate to have planned a trip with a route largely unaffected by three major storm fronts in eastern and western North America, and south of an interstate-closing blizzard in the Dakotas.

Tiger beetles are described as spring-fall or summer species on the basis of when the adults emerge from the pupal stage or from winter diapause. It was the former category of species that we were interested in on this trip. While Bob's experience indicated that tiger beetles do not emerge in the morning until the ambient temperature rises to about 14 C, colleague Tim Arendse of Portage la Prairie found several species active this spring at 6 C on sandhills, although the sand surface was no doubt a few degrees warmer. We suspected that individuals were capable of activity (foraging for insect prey and mating) at lower temperatures when first emerging in the spring than their preferred activity threshold later in the season – perhaps an adaptation to increase the activity span of the adult phase of their life history, and to take advantage of occasional early warm days.

Our first stop was at some small sandhills and blow-outs 16 km W of Walcott in North Dakota, a few km east of the Sheyenne River. It was a beautifully sunny day, reaching 21 C. We had to walk over a km of cattle pasture to reach the isolated sites of open sand, but were rewarded with a nice series of the Festive Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela scutellaris lecontei*) – the same race that extends into Manitoba. Todd also captured one specimen of the Big Sand Tiger Beetle (*C. formosa generosa*), which was exceptionally early for this big species. We also picked up a blue oil Beetle (*Meloe angusticollis*), a pleasing fungus beetle (Erotylidae), and several small carabids (*Stenolophus* sp), both flying and on the ground. Unfortunately these sandhills were infested with large and incredibly sharp burs, which clogged and ripped our nets, stuck to our knees, and painfully penetrated our fingers as we pulled dozens of them free. The irritation caused by these burs in bison, deer and cattle must be awful. In other years, Todd has taken the Six-spotted Tiger Beetle (*C. sexguttata*) on the banks of the Sheyenne River in late May, here at the NW edge of its range.

Driving south on Highway 85 from Dickenson to Spearfish, South Dakota, we spotted over 110 Pronghorn in cattle and agricultural fields and mixed-grass prairie, some in groups up to 16. It is always reassuring to see these beautiful animals on their native lands – representing a species that came as close as the American Bison to extinction. Our first stop for the day was Mirror Lake, a few km NW of Spearfish, a picturesque site we had collected at a few years ago. The soil was a remarkable orange-red and supported bunch grasses, yucca and prickly pear cactus. Over the next hour we captured nice series of the Splendid Tiger Beetle (*C. splendida*) with a red

head and green elytra, dark-green Cow Path Tiger Beetle (*C. purpurea audubonii*), Green Claybank Tiger Beetle (*C. denverensis*), reddish Common Claybank Tiger Beetle (*C. limbalis*), and a few Bronzed (*C. r. repanda*) and Oblique-lined (*C. tranquebarica kirbyi*) tiger beetles. The colours of these amazing species blended in especially well with the reddish soil and green plants. When we both returned to the car from our separate routes, Todd asked Bob how many rattlesnakes he had seen, because he had counted seven, some at close range. Bob was a little disconcerted to have seen none, now realizing that he must have walked and run within a metre or two of a number of these Prairie Rattlers (*Crotalus viridis viridis*) without being aware of them. Usually they give a startling rattle when approaching too closely, but in the cool morning temperatures (14-16 C), it seemed the rattlers were not yet sufficiently warmed up to give their usual warning.

We then drove NW into Wyoming, into the Black Hills National Forest, between Alladin and Alva, where we found a few *Cicindela purpurea*, *C. formosa* and *C. scutellaris scutellaris* along a sandy trail in Ponderosa Pine Forest. This race of *C. scutellaris,* characterized by an attractive pattern of bright-green head and red elytra with no white maculations, was found mainly in a few open areas with numerous mounds of sand thrown up by the Northern Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*). After walking for half-an-hour, we found that the trail ended suddenly at an impressive, sheer 75-metre cliff, with a beautiful vista of rugged and remote hills and valleys. We discussed the possibility of cougars being in the area, since the Black Hills population has grown to the point where numerous individuals (usually subadult males) are dispersing throughout the Midwest as far east as Chicago, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska. The presence of a big carnivore certainly heightens one's awareness of the wildness of Nature, and we did come across a suspicious-looking scrape of a big paw in the sand. Frogs were calling loudly in a pool down below, but it didn't feel like spring. Frequent clouds and a steady wind kept the air chilly, reducing the activity of the tiger beetles, and we soon retraced our steps though some deep snow drifts and around puddles back to the car.

The following day found us roaming the Nebraska Sandhills SE of Dunning. Although it warmed up to 21 C by mid-day, the wind was so powerful that we were frequently knocked off balance, and we had to keep wiping sand from our eyes and mouth. On semi-protected sides of dunes, we took dozens of the Sandy Tiger Beetle (*C. limbata limbata*) – the nominate race, isolated by hundreds of km from the northern *C. l. nympha* populations of Manitoba. Also present were the attractively patterned Blowout Tiger Beetle (*C. lengi lengi*), *C. s. scutellaris*, and 16 specimens of the extremely hairy cetoniine bee-mimic beetle (*Stephanucha pilipennis*), crawling on the sand or buzzing through the air. Demonstrating a preference for sandy habitats, this species' life history remains largely unknown, although its appearance in April suggests adults over-winter, as is the case in the related Bumblebee Flower Beetle (*Euphoria inda*), which reaches the sandhills of southern Manitoba. We also picked up two 10-mm black, rectangular, ant-loving beetles (*Cremastocheilus*), likely searching for ant colonies in which to take up residence. In a ditch with damp mud, we captured a few *C.r. repanda* and *C. tranquebarica kirbyi*. Bob came across a coyote carcass and of course had to turn it over, and retrieved two species of rove beetles (including the 18-mm black and gold *Creophilus maxillosus*), several dermestids (*Dermestes marmoratus*), and the burying beetle or silphid *Nicrophorus carolinus*, which reaches its northern distribution in these sandhills. Here and in many other localities we saw numerous Speckled-winged Rangeland Grasshoppers (*Arphia conspersa*) with bright-red wings – an early-season flyer over much of western North America.

At a campground west of Halsey, in the Nebraska National Forest, we saw numerous *C. repanda* on the sand-mud shore of ponds, and a few *C. scutellaris* and *C. tranquebarica* on sandy patches of bare ground among juniper trees. Highway 83 north of North Platte cut through many fields of sand dunes, and stopping at one site produced over a dozen *C. limbata*, but no *C. formosa*, with which it is usually associated. High clay bluffs above the Tri County Supply Canal south of Gothenburg produced *C. spendida*, *C. denverensis* and *C. repanda.* We worked hard for two hours on the very steep slopes in a howling wind and in only 10 C. Many of the beetles retreated to sheltered sites along the edge of the road. How they managed not being blown away when taking flight was hard to imagine. That night, Bob checked some lights in North Platte, but in spite of a temperature of 15 C, no insects were seen flying. He went back to the motel with only one carabid and a hide beetle (*Trox*).

One is struck when travelling through the Midwest by the constant passing of trains, each hauling hundreds of boxcars full of coal to eastern coal furnaces. With the United States' increasing dependence on coal for power, and plants not yet capturing significant fine-particulate matter or greenhouse gases, these trains are ominous signs of worsening air pollution and global warming. Yet the coal consortium continues to promote coal in glowing terms on television commercials as both clean-burning energy and the solution to US energy independence.

As we drove westward toward Denver, Colorado, the spectacular Rocky Mountains rose into view, with pure white snow covering the steep slopes almost to the horizon. For those having lived in the prairies for so many years, such a sight is always exciting. Within the SW corner of the city we located Cherry Creek Lake Park, which hosted a major colony of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Along sandy trails and shorelines we caught many *C. lengi* and a few Western Tiger Beetles (*C. oregoni guttifera*), *C. purpurea* and *C. formosa*. It was amazing to see how many uses this popular park was zoned for – swimming, boating, hiking, biking on paved trails, archery, and even a firearms range. Heading south along highway 105, we stopped at a remarkable landform of bright orange-red, clay/gravel eroded gullies, where we captured a few reddish *C. limbalis sedalia*, noted for its broadly connecting maculations along the outer edge of the elytra. This is the only population that has been considered as a possible subspecies in this conservative species, distributed over a wide region of North America.

South on Interstate 25 brought us to Walsenburg, where the collecting was the highlight of the trip. Cucharas Creek revealed a little water present and some damp spots following a recent rain in an otherwise parched Short-grass Prairie landscape. Dazzling-white patches on the creek bed and nearby flats revealed a high salt concentration from evaporation. Here we collected over 60 *C. scutellaris* and a few *C. lengi* on the sandy banks (in open grass-shrub cover), over 30 Crimson Saltflat Tiger Beetles (*C. fulgida fulgida*) mainly on the upper salt flats with shrubby patches, and a few *C. tranquebarica* and *C. repanda* on the wet mud. This was one of the few areas in which we could describe the tiger beetles as being numerous, especially appreciated after walking and climbing many kilometres earlier in the trip for a few or no specimens. This is just one of the exciting things about studying tiger beetles – there are so many variables influencing their availability – patchy distribution of habitat, abundance/scarcity during a given year, seasonal activity and variability, temperature, sunlight (cloudiness reduces activity), and presence or loss of populations at sites due to human disturbance or other factors. In other words, there are always surprises – some frustrating but many really exciting. Todd took some of the guesswork out of the exercise by comprehensively researching the literature and contacting other enthusiasts, plus his own years of experience in finding these sometimes-elusive beetles.

Arriving at a destination at the appropriate time of day often meant getting on the road by 5:30 AM, gulping down a fast-food breakfast with coffee, and driving hundreds of kilometres.
…….To be concluded in the next Newsletter

ACADEMIC VACANCY -11753 : Assistant/Associate Professor in Plant Protection Entomology

The Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba invites applications for a tenure track position at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor, commencing January 1, 2011, or as soon as possible thereafter, to teach and conduct research in Plant Protection Entomology. The position will be weighted at approximately 45% teaching, 40% research and 15% service/outreach. Qualified applicants must possess: a Ph.D. in entomology or a closely related field, a record of independent research as demonstrated by scholarly publications, the potential for developing a strong externally funded research program in one or more areas of plant protection entomology, demonstrated ability or potential for excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching, and excellent oral and written communication skills.
For more information on this opportunity, please visit:
http://umanitoba.ca/cgi-bin/human_resources/jobs/view.pl?posting_id=85010

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS*

Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 22 (FWI) & 23 (U of M)
Contact: John Gavloski, jgavloski@gov.mb.ca

Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and B.C.
Vancouver, B.C., 31 October-03 November 2010
http://www.sfu.ca/biology/esbc/JAM/jam_announce.html

58th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America
San Diego, California, 13-16 December 2010
http://www.entsoc.org/am/fm/index.htm

Joint Annual Meeting of the Canadian and Acadian Entomological Societies
Halifax, N.S., 2011

*If you have a meeting you would like listed in the next ESM Newsletter, contact the editors with the details by December 01 2010

ESM EXECUTIVE 2010

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