Editor’s Overview

At this time of year we have results coming in from our surveys at a furious pace. I’ve decide to devote this issue to results from some of our trapping and defoliation surveys. In February, we will present results from the overwintering surveys.

Mike has compiled the results from the last half of the Hylobius trapping survey. Jim and Bob worked on a write-up and the for the gypsy moth and spruce budworm pheromone trap surveys.

I hope all of our readers have a wonderful holiday season ... a busy year is ahead in 2005!

‘Til next issue

Jacqui Gordon
Editor

Say What and Quotes . . .

They don’t make bugs like Bunny anymore. -Olav Mjelde

In ancient times they had not statistics, so they had to fall back on lies. -S. Leacock

To err is human - and to blame it on a computer is even more so. -Robert Orben

A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history - with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila. -Mitch Ratcliffe

Children really brighten up a household. They never turn the lights off. -Ralph Bus

All I ask is the chance to prove that money can’t make me happy. -Spike Milligan

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic. -Unknown

Sharp as a sack full of wet mice. -Foghorn Leghorn

Insects don’t read [the] books. -L. Hartling (commenting on an insect’s ability to change its habits just when we think we have them mostly figured out ... also relates to “Nothing like an insect to make a liar out of someone”. -L. Coady)
Project Updates
Hylobius Trapping Update
Mike LeBlanc

This year the Hylobius Project was active from 21 April to 16 August. Collections were made daily. Temperature (maximum & minimum) and rainfall amounts were also recorded for each day. The first half of the collection results were printed in the May/June '04 issue. This table completes the catch results for 2004. Analysis of data is ongoing and will indicate the direction of the survey for next season.

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Spruce Budworm Traps
Jim Rudderham

Traps were placed province-wide by Pest Detection Officers and IPM staff in 150 locations. Samples were taken from every county in Nova Scotia. Results show that there were 59 moths caught in 2004. Although extremely low in number, this is the third year that positive catches were found. The number of moths caught in the traps increased in 2004 but the number of positive traps decreased. The annual L-2 survey will include each positive trap location and provide further information into the population numbers.

Gypsy Moth Defoliation Survey
Bob Guscott

Reports coming in from the PDO’s and staff at Bowater lead us to do a limited defoliation survey in Annapolis and Queens Co. Within the marked area, defoliation ranges from light to moderate amounts. The species most affected by the defoliation are poplar and oak. This area is within the quarantine zone.
Gypsy Moth Pheromone Trap Results - Jim Rudderham

220 delta pheromone traps were placed throughout eastern towns of Nova Scotia by PDO’s and IPM staff. All of the towns had ten traps except Truro. Because of the egg masses found in Truro in the spring of 2003, thirty traps were placed. Results are very similar to last year with no big surprises. Parrsboro was found to have the highest catch with a moderate level of adults caught. Advocate and Five Islands followed close behind but with a lower number of moths caught.

Fig. 3. Gypsy moth delta trap town survey results, 2004

23 permanent multi-pher traps were placed across the province by PDO’s, IPM staff, and private individuals. Moderate to high catches of adult male gypsy moth were recorded in Hants, Kings, Queens, and Lunenburg counties, which fall within the regulated zone. Lower numbers of gypsy moth were caught in the remaining counties. On a positive note, the trap catches in Kentville have decreased this year. Let’s hope it continues.

Thank you to all those individuals who were involved with these pheromone trap surveys.

Fig. 4. Gypsy moth multi-pher (permanent) trap results, 2004.
And now for something not quite completely different. There will be no shortage of insects in the highlands of Cape Breton next year. The eastern blackheaded budworm is leading in numbers, followed by the hemlock looper and coming up last, but not least, is the whitemarked tussock moth. To say that this is an interesting development would be an understatement.

We have received a request to survey for the pale winged grey in eastern hemlock stands for parts of the Western Region. It will be a bit like an early Easter Egg Hunt but I’m not going to paint any of the eggs we find.

This must be the most active year yet for the bed bug in this province. I don’t think I’ve ever had so many calls before. One call was from a family that had just moved into an apartment and discovered that it was heavily infested. When you can smell the bedbugs (they have a distinctive sweet odor like strawberries) you know there a lot of them living with you. The Insect Focus for the May 1998 issue of the Insectary Notes has a detailed write-up about this insect and how to control it. If you don’t have that issue contact us for a copy.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ... and don’t let the bedbugs bite.

'Til next time,

Eric

Eric Georgeson
Provincial Entomologist

Balsam Woolly Adelgid
Keith Moore
Well, the fall sampling of the weather stations for the balsam woolly adelgid is basically complete. I’ve been dodging the snow banks to get this done. The good news is that there are not a lot of overwintering nymphs. The bad news is that I’m hoping for one heck of a cold winter to keep the little pests at bay ... frozen bay that is. Sampling in the spring will determine if my Christmas wish has been answered.

Have a Merry Christmas and may all your days be cold! brrrr brrr!

From the “cool email” file ... This was sent to me and it works ...

Chocolate Mathematics
This is cool chocolate math!!! It takes less than a minute ... Work this out as you read. Be sure you don’t read the bottom until you’ve worked it out! This is not one of those waste of time things, it’s fun.

1. First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to have chocolate (try for more than once but less than 10).
2. Multiply this number by 2 (Just to be bold).
3. Add 5 (for Sunday).
4. Multiply by 50 ... I’ll wait while you get a calculator ...
5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1754. If you haven’t, add 1753.
6. Now subtract the four digit year that you were born.

You should have a three digit number.
The first digit of this was your original number (ie. how many times you want to have chocolate each week).

The next two numbers are ... YOUR AGE! (oh yes it is!!) This is the only year (2004) it will ever work, so spread it around while it lasts.
Fractured Christmas Carols

No one can fracture a Christmas carol better than a kid. Sing along with these new takes on old favorites:

♫ Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly ...
♫ We three kings of porridge and tar ...
♫ On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me ...
♫ Later on we’ll perspire, as we dream by the fire.
♫ He’s makin’ a list, chicken and rice.
♫ Noel. Noel, Barney’s the king of Israel.
♫ With the jelly toast proclaim ...
♫ Olive, the other reindeer ...
♫ Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say.
♫ Sleep in heavenly peas ...
♫ In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is sparse and brown.
♫ You’ll go down in listerine ...
♫ Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay.
♫ Come, froggy faithful ...
♫ Good tidings we bring to you and your kid.

Ways to Irritate Santa …

- Instead of milk and cookies, leave him a salad, and a note explaining that you think he could stand to lose a few pounds.
- While he’s in the house, go find his sleigh and write him a speeding ticket.
- Leave him a note, explaining that you’ve gone away for the holidays. Ask if he would mind watering your plants.
- Keep an angry bull in your living room. If you think a bull goes crazy when he sees a little red cape, wait until he sees that big, red Santa suit!
- While he’s in the house, find the sleigh and sit in it. As soon as he comes back and sees you, tell him that he shouldn’t have missed that last payment, and take off.
- Paint “hoof-prints” all over your face and clothes. While he’s in the house, go out on the roof. When he comes back up, act like you’ve been “trampled.” Threaten to sue.
- Instead of ornaments, decorate your tree with Easter eggs. Dress up like the Easter Bunny. Wait for Santa to come and then say, "This neighborhood ain’t big enough for the both of us."
- Leave a note by the telephone, telling Santa that Mrs. Claus called and wanted to remind him to pick up some milk and a loaf of bread on his way home.

I wish I was a glow worm, A glow worm’s never glum. ‘Cos how can you be grumpy When the sun shines out your bum!