Minutes from the 562nd Meeting of the Connecticut Entomology Society

March 19, 2021

Zoom

Social pre-meeting began at approximately 18:30.

**Business Meeting:**

-Meeting called to order at 19:31 by president Ray Simpson.

**Reports:**

-Two more paid members – please pay your dues!

**Old Business:**

-(I didn’t notice any, please let me know.)

**New Business:**

-Nominations, voting, and elections are next meeting, on April 16th.

**Announcements:**

-Next meeting (April 16th) will feature Dr. Wagner, and a discussion on the insect apocalypse.

**Exhibits:**

-Matt had a neat katydid, while Ray had a moth collection.

**Evening Presentation:**

-Quint Doan exhibited his research on *Melanoplus* grasshoppers and how their fitness can adapt in the face of climate change. This could have implications on which populations of a species should be protected in order to protect that species as a whole.

-Sarah Bonello discussed a paper she worked on, regarding a social behavior of wasps. Specifically, how wasps are ideal for social dominance hierarchy studies. *Polistes* wasps use social eavesdropping and their ability to recognize individual faces to remember information on potential rivals. In an experiment, wasps were able to observe two other wasps fighting, and make deductions on the fighting ability of those aforementioned fighting wasps.

-Stan Gosliner talked about how trophic interactions have been both affected by climate change and plant invasions. Using three trophic levels in the form of native and invasive plants, a grasshopper, and a spider, Gosliner measured grasshopper abundance when heat and invasive plants are used as treatments in an experiment. Will these factors be additive or synergistic? Either way, the results of the experiment could help focus conservation and restoration efforts regarding different invasive species.

-Lukas Keras conducted a pollinator survey in West Redding. The most insects were found on various goldenrod species.

-Leo Dutkewych collected *Silphidae* beetles in Ellington. He mentions they’re very important in speeding up the process of decomposition, but some of them even help to pollinate odorous plant species!

-Finally, Matthew Nochisaki discussed *Platydracus fossator*, a *Staphylinid* beetle. Matt monitored this one population he found in Cape Cod, and they were largely dependent on Russala mushrooms. Their life cycle is fairly unknown, but the relationship between the beetles and the mushrooms seems remarkable – and also seems worthy of further research.

-For the ten-minute group, Doan and Goslinger had a two-way tie, with Bonello winning.

-For the five-minute group, Keras placed third, Dutkewych second, and Nochisaki first.

Meeting adjourned at 20:48.

**Note: corrections and additions to the minutes are welcomed. Please email maxengel1@gmail.com.**