

Research Day | March 15, 2017

Title: Entomological Diversity Along British Columbia's Coasts

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Abstract:

Canada has the longest coastline of any country in the world. Over 200,000km of shores and thousands of islands define our nation's link between the sea and land. British Columbia is host to over 10% of this national shoreline. Despite this, very little is known about the biodiversity of coastline habitats. While vertebrates, especially birds and mammals, are well-known, the insects and spiders that make up the bulk of biodiversity in coastline ecosystems have not been the target of research in Canada. Furthermore, we do not know which species present on our shores could be rare and endangered or newly introduced and potentially harmful to agriculture and forests. Basic insect surveys can be conducted quickly and are aided by the inclusion of enthusiastic lay participants. Once representative samples of the insect and spider communities are collected at various locales, they can be identified and used to develop an understanding of the insects found on our coasts and how they differ from sea to sea. The end research products would include a series of specimen lists from various shores and islands, a summary of the biodiversity findings along the BC coast, and a series of invaluable specimens to be deposited at the Royal BC Museum. Scientific and popular publications, engaging exhibits (e.g., pocket gallery, travelling exhibits), and community and online outreach activities (e.g., learning portal, Live@Lunch, Field Trippers) will all flow from these research activities. Collaboration with government agencies (e.g., BC Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada), BC Parks, and other RBCM departments, especially the Invertebrate collection, will be an essential component of this project. An exploration of the insect and spider communities found on the shorelines throughout BC will be a valuable scientific and cultural contribution to the Royal BC Museum.



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