

Collecting Caddisflies in Northern Michigan and other Tales from a Retired Forest Entomologist

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More than 300 caddisfly (Trichoptera) species have been reported from Michigan (Houghton et al. 2018, Houghton 2020). Starting in 2021, we used UV-lights laid over a pan of 80% ethanol to collect adult caddisflies at five sites along Finch Creek (Antrim County) and at 12 sites on Drummond Island (Chippewa County). Collecting occurred three times in 2021 along Finch Creek (June, July, and September) and twice on Drummond Island (June and September). So far in 2022, collecting has occurred in May at all sites and at Finch Creek in June.

Sampling occurred along a 5 km stretch of Finch Creek, starting where it is only a few meters wide to where it is over 30 m wide and empties into the Grass River. The three most downstream sites are within the Grass River Natural Area, a nearly 600 ha preserve (<https://www.grassriver.org/>), which was the location of a recent beetle survey (Haack and Ruesink 2020).

Through May 2022, 77 species have been identified, representing 15 families. The five families with the most species were Limnephilidae (16), Leptoceridae (13), Polycen-tropodidae (9), Phryganeidae (7), and Hydrop-tilidae (6). Collections of *Pycnopsyche circularis* (Limnephilidae) and *Wormaldia moesta* (Philopotamidae) represent the first known captures of these species in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Three other noteworthy species, which have not been collected since the 1940s, were *Lepidostoma prominens* (Lepidostomatidae), *Limnephilus externus* (Limnephilidae), and *Limnephilus parvulus* (Limnephilidae); the last species was also collected on Drummond Island.



Sampling Sites on Drummond Island



The 12 sampling sites on Drummond Island represented 1 stream, 3 shoreline locations, and 8 inland lakes. Including all 2021 but only some May 2022 collections, 73 caddisfly species have been identified, representing 11

families.



***Hesperophylax designatus* (Limnephilidae) was found in abundance at Finch Creek in May 2022.**

The five families with the most species were Leptoceridae (19), Hydroptilidae (13), Phryganeidae (10), Polycentropodidae (10), and Limnephilidae (8). Collections of *Agrypnia colorata* (Phryganeidae) from several Drummond Island lakes represent the first collections in Michigan since the 1950s. In addition, a single specimen of *Holocentropus* (*Polycentropus*) *milaca* (Polycentropodidae) was collected, which is a species that has been found worldwide from only six total sites in Michigan and Minnesota.

One other record of note was the collection of *Glyphopsyche irrorata* (Limnephilidae) at both Finch Creek and Drummond Island in May 2022. This species emerges in autumn and overwinters as an adult (Berté and Pritchard 1983). The adults become active again in spring and are seldom collected after mid-May.



***Ptilostomis semifasciata* (Phryganeidae) is a common species found at both study areas.**

References

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