

Arthropods of Moon Woods

My Biological Diversity class (BIO 106) collected 8 species of ants in Moon Woods, which is slightly less than the 9 species we collected (with equal sampling intensity) at other forested sites on campus. (Although we did not collect any fire ants in Moon Woods, they are almost certainly present, albeit in low density.) The ant community in Moon Woods is more typical of one in undisturbed woodlands, with three species of *Camponotus* and one ponerine. Disturbed sites, such as a clear cut on Lavender Mountain and the Victory Lake Basin, had ant communities dominated by *Solenopsis invicta* and *Nylanderia vividula*.

Table 1. Ant species of Moon Woods, collected by pitfall trap and active search (BIO 106).

Ponerine

- unknown species 1

Myrmicinae

- *Aphaenogaster rudis* group
- *Crematogaster ashmeadi*
- *Solenopsis invicta* (Red Imported Fire Ant) [Not collected in our pitfalls, but almost certainly present.]

Formicinae

- *Camponotus castaneus* (Carpenter Ant)
 - *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* (Carpenter Ant)
 - *Camponotus* sp.
 - *Formica pallidifulva*
 - *Prenolepis imparis* (Honey Ant)
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Carabid beetles are often useful indicators of disturbance. We only collected one species of carabid beetle in Moon Woods. Some of our other sites on campus had as many as 5 species of carabids.

Notably absent from our pitfall samples were scorpions (*Vejovis carolinianus*), daddy longlegs (2 species of Opiliones), and several millipedes (Polydesmida and Spirobo). These are all very common in forests on the Mountain Campus.

Wet weight of arthropods from pitfall traps in Moon Woods is approximately the same as that for other forested sites on campus, such Martha's Meadow (near Victory Lake Basin) and Upland Forest near the Old Mill. Forested sites had considerably less wet biomass than an Upland Clear Cut and Victory Lake Basin.

Data is from my Biological Diversity class (Fall 2003).
Updated 10 August 2015