

Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Sampling Technique

for Muddy Bottom

Field Guide

In the Field

1. Use a quadrat or estimate a 1 x 1 m square.
2. Place the mouth of the D-net inside one side of the quadrat (downstream if moving water) and lower it 4 cm into the sediments.
3. Move the net over the 1 x 1 m square and then slowly lift the D-net partly out of the water.
4. Move the bottom of the net back and forth in the water to wash out some of the sediments.
5. Lift the net out of the water and as the water flows through, make sure no organisms escape by climbing out. One student may have to hold the net itself underneath since it may be quite heavy. This is one sample.
6. Use the sieved water in squirt bottle to concentrate all organisms and debris at the bottom of the net.
7. Grab the bottom of the net and overturn the net carefully to release all of its content into a bucket. Use the squirt bottles to make sure that all organisms and debris have been transferred to the bucket.
8. Place the bucket(s) in the shade until you are ready to sort, count and identify organisms.
9. Repeat steps 1-8 until you have collected the number of samples you need for this habitat type.