

Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Sampling Technique

for Vegetated Banks or Around Snags, Logs, and Roots

Field Guide

In the Field

1. Hold the D-net in the air so that it unfolds and is ready to sample.
2. In a constant motion, submerge the net in the water, move it into the vegetated bank, or around the snag(s), log(s), or root(s) heading towards the bottom.
3. Bounce the net into the sediments twice.
4. Bring the net up through the water.
5. Slowly lift the D-net out of the water. As the water flows through, make sure that no organisms escape by climbing out. 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.