



Studying & Collecting Insects



GOING BUGGY



Studying Insects with a Transect



- ❧ Many ways to studying insects but here we will use a transect line.
- ❧ Transects are used to determine what animals live there.
- ❧ Can be used in different areas and be different sizes depending on what info is needed about the habitat.
- ❧ same transect is walked at different times of the day
- ❧ different seasons of the year
- ❧ This way we can find out how the populations of species and the mix of species in a habitat changes

Studying Insects with a Transect



Tagging Monarchs



- ❧ Show the poster of tagged monarch and explain that right now the monarch butterfly is declining mostly due to habitat loss.
- ❧ To track the migration, monarchs are caught and tagged with small paper tags which are stuck to their wings.
- ❧ Each label has a unique number. When the monarch is recovered the number is reported back to the scientists tracking the migration.
- ❧ They keep a large database of each location when and where each butterfly was tagged and when and where it was found again.
- ❧ By combining these locations the scientists can draw lines indicating the migration path of the monarchs.

Tagging Monarchs



Where to collect Insects



- Collect insects from almost anywhere:
 - plants, especially on flowers and leaves
 - bark, stems, and branches
 - in and around buildings
 - under objects like rocks and logs
 - ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and bogs and.



Where would you look
for Insects?

Ways to Collect Insects



Net Sweeping



Aspirator Method



Sheet Trap for Tree Sweeping



Aspirator Method

Ways to Collect Insects

☞ **Sweeping:** is done by moving a net back and forth through tall plants. This collects a variety of small insects that may otherwise be overlooked.

☞ **pit fall traps:** A tin can or similar container is sunk into the ground so the top is even with the ground. A small hole is drilled into the bottom to prevent water from accumulating. A piece of old fruit or other type of material is placed as bait to attract insects. Different baits attract different insects. A fine-meshed screen is put over the bait to make it easier to remove insects that fall into it. A cover is placed on top to prevent the trap from filling with moisture (in this case a plastic plate). Insects walking on the ground fall into the container and become trapped (flying insects can escape).

☞ **Aspirator:** An aspirator is a small vacuum constructed of a glass tube, two-hole stopper, bent glass and hoses. Place the intake hose next to the insect. Inhale through the suction hose to pull the insect into the aspirator. Remove the insect from inside the aspirator.

☞ **Sheet Trap:** this method uses a collecting sheet spread over PVC pipes to hold the sheet open. Hold the open sheet under tree branches or near shrubs and hit exposed branches with a stick to have hidden insects fall into the sheet.



Net Sweeping



Aspirator Method



Sheet Trap for Tree Sweeping



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