



Description of the macroinvertebrate sampling methods to be applied in STAR

The EBEOSWA sampling method

0 OBJECTIVE

The objective is to capture the majority of the taxa and their relative abundances present at a given site.

1 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

1. At a site, the major habitats are selected over a 10 to 30 m long stretch of the stream. Each habitat is sampled with the same sampling effort up to a total of 5 m pond-net (200 mm * 300 mm, mesh size 0.5 mm) sample.
2. The sampling effort is standardised for each site:
 - a. The total sampling area is standardised to 1.5 m².
 - b. Stream bottom (mineral and organic) habitats are sampled by vigorously pushing the pond-net through the upper few centimetres of each bottom type over a length of 0.5 to 1m.
 - c. Vegetation habitats are sampled by sweeping the pond-net through each vegetation type several times over a length of 0.5-1 m.
 - d. If a large stand of vegetation is present, then the standard 1.5 m² sample consists of 1.2 m² of vegetation and 0.3 m² of bottom habitat sample.
 - e. At sites lacking vegetation, the standard sampling is confined to the bottom habitats.
 - f. At deeper sites, five samples are taken with an Ekman-Birge sampler from the bottom habitats. These five grabs are equivalent to one 0.5 m pond net bottom sample.
3. The habitat samples are combined for the site to one sample and stored in a bucket.

2 SORTING TECHNIQUE

The macroinvertebrate samples are taken to the laboratory, and sorted alive by eye, counted and identified to relevant taxonomic level.