

Instructions for Lowman's Leaf Lovers Club

How to Measure Quick-and-Dirty Herbivory Levels

1. Pick 30 leaves (15 are OK but 30 are ideal) with a known history:
 - Light Levels** (sun or shade)
 - Age** (preferably mature but other choices include young or senescing)
 - Species** (please list genus and species, or a number that corresponds with a collection)
 - Height** (understory or mid-canopy or upper canopy?) including meters and forest type
2. Collect the leaves and number them with a waterproof pen from 1-30.
3. Trace the leaves and number them on the white Xerox paper.
(Or any other sheets of plain or graph paper available)
4. Outline all the herbivory (i.e. Holes in leaves) and also stipple the sections of leaf mining.
If insects ate half the leaf, be sure to estimate the outline of the original leaf shape so that a calculation can be made for what was eaten.
5. Make sure the following is on each data sheet of traced leaves:
 - Species name** (*Genus species*)
 - Number of each leaf** (1-30)
 - Your name**, so that I can thank you later for your drawings!
6. Leaves should be collected randomly.
Anyone could pick them from around the raft, or forage for samples brought back on the sled, or clip branches from a rope to obtain random samples
7. Mail the data sheets and site information to:
Meg Lowman
Environmental Studies Department
New College of Florida
5700 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34243
Email: lowman@ncf.edu or canopymeg@aol.com
Website: www.canopymeg.com

It would be great to get samples of all species that are found in conjunction with the raft sites and/or the sled trips.

Thank you very much for your cooperation, in assisting me to keep up the international herbivory database that now covers three continents.

