



Abstract

In two bursts of activity, we sample local invertebrates that are small, secretive and very numerous. The Lincoln Index produces a figure for population density that students are invited to assess for reliability, bearing in mind the assumptions this calculation depends upon

Aim

- To investigate the population density of a named invertebrate species using the Lincoln Index

Learning Objectives:

(The Aims of the day are...)

- To become familiar with the mark-release-recapture method
- To understand what data is required for the Lincoln Index, and to use the formula to calculate population density
- To understand the assumptions made in order that the Lincoln Index produces a valid result

Learning Outcomes:

(Following a full day's fieldwork, students will be able...)

- To define the ecological terms used in a population study
- To explain why conservationists monitor population change
- To grasp when the Lincoln Index can be used as a suitable estimate of population density
- To describe the necessary steps in order to carry out the mark-release-recapture method
- To assess the validity of the calculated population density in relation to the assumptions of the Lincoln Index
- To evaluate the limitations in equipment and methods used in data collection