

Project Information for the ATBI Ferns Project

Project Details

Principal Investigator: Pat Cox

Project Description: Data are from Fern Foray Surveys done along Park trails and a few non-trail named areas with unique habitat (such as the disturbed area around a picnic area).

Project Dates: Start Date: 6/23/2001 End Date:

Protocol: Plot-based trail survey. Those taking part are a team consisting of a plant scientist and volunteers. 7.5 meter circular plots are established along the trail in the field on the day of the survey. Each plot is paced off to be approximately 200 meters from the previous plot. The plots (sitecode) are numbered consecutively, by tens. Sites that fall inbetween these plots are numbered such that they end in the number 5. For example, observations of ferns and associated vegetation that fall between plot ... 10 and ... 20 would be given a site number ... 15. These inbetween areas cover the entire extent between the two defined plots, so as not to miss plants that do not fall specifically in the 7.5 meter plot. The counts in tbl_Specimen are estimated counts. The estimated counts within the 7.5 meter plots are explained by the following field protocol. If an actual count was between 1 and 9, then it was entered as 5 (field entry was 1), if between 10 and 19, then 15 (field entry was 11), if between 20 and 29 (field entry was 21), then 25, if 30 and over (field entry was 31), then 35. For inbetween plots sites, field sheet entries were indicated by "H" (High), "M" (Medium), or "L" (Low). These were translated into the data as 35, 20, or 5 respectively to allow for indication of estimated numbers, and be relatively comparable to the plot estimates. Official or published reports of counts, or calculations based on counts, must include this count protocol.

Project Notes: PlaceName field of the tbl_ATBI_Sites for this project contains the name of the trail, part of a trail, or named place, where the collection site is located. This project is for inventorying trail plots next to trails, and making observations between the standard 7.5 meter diameter plots as additional sites. If habitat differences are striking, then places near trails may be set aside as separate surveys, such as Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area.

Summary: This is an Inventory of ferns and associated species along the trails of the Park. This inventory utilizes 7.5 meter circular plots located approximately every 200 meters along trails. Between-plot sites are made up of observations and field identifications of flora along the trails between the formalized plots. The intent of the project is to inventory the ferns and associated flora over the entire Park utilizing the extensive network of trails, and a dedicated group of volunteer citizen scientists and students to accomplish this sizable and significant task.

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Data Summary

Data Collection Year(s): 2007 to 2007

Number of Sites Sampled:	222
Number of Samplings:	222
Number of Orders Identified:	11
Number of Families Identified:	20
Number of Species Identified:	34
Number of Specimens Identified to Species:	755
Number of Specimens not Identified to Species:	3
Total Number of Individuals Counted (actual or estimated):	12180
Number of Genera Identified:	31
Percentage of Major Watersheds Sampled:	6%