

Project Information for the Byrd Spider Inventory Project

Project Details

Principal Investigator: John Byrd

Project Description: Spider collections and IDs by Shelly Miller and students from Anderson Co., TN school classes taught by John Byrd.

Project Dates: **Start Date:** 1/1/1999 **End Date:** 12/31/2002

Protocol: Four different techniques were implemented in order to capture spiders for study and preservation. These techniques are performed continuously for time spans of 20-40 minutes by the same collector and include the beat stick and cloth collection method, the leaf litter collection method, and both the above and below knee collection methods. The beat stick and cloth collection method entails firmly beating any visible foliage while making sure to catch the descending material onto a cloth. The material is then checked for spider specimens. The leaf litter collection method requires the use of a metal garbage container with the bottom removed. The land coverage of this collection method is noted in meters squared. The container is thrust into the ground and twisted several times to insure a sealed off area and to coerce any spiders to crawl up the sides of the container where they are made visible to the collector. After the container has been searched for spiders, the leaf litter it contains is transferred to a garbage bag and secured tightly. The litter is then placed into a Berlese funnel which has rubbing alcohol below it to preserve any organisms that may exit the funnel upon its heating. The above knee collection method involves the acquisition of any spiders above average knee height. Conversely the below knee collection method requires the capture of spiders below average knee height.

Project Notes: Though John Byrd is listed as the primary investigator, his student, Shelly Miller, did most of the work in keying out as well as collecting the specimens.

Summary: Public school classes were taken to the park to experience collecting spiders. The results and management of the collections was done by student, Shelly Miller as advised by teacher John Byrd and University of Tennessee Professor, Dr. Susan Riechert.

Project Details

Data Summary

Data Collection Year(s): 1999 to 2002

Number of Sites Sampled:	1
Number of Samplings:	30
Number of Orders Identified:	1
Number of Families Identified:	25
Number of Species Identified:	52
Number of Specimens Identified to Species:	170
Number of Specimens not Identified to Species:	235
Total Number of Individuals Counted (actual or estimated):	952
Number of Genera Identified:	94
Percentage of Major Watersheds Sampled:	2 %