

Moth trapping

Kick sampling is a useful method for surveying invertebrates in shallow, flowing water. It can be used to find insects both in the water and hiding amongst any rocks or other shelter. It's best used in streams or small rivers with flowing water.

Equipment

- A large white sheet
- A washing line (a bit of string works too)
- Pegs
- A bright torch or lamp

Method

- Use your pegs to hang your sheet at one end with the other hanging down to the ground. It doesn't matter if it reaches the ground; a small gap or bit of sheet on the ground is fine.
- Turn off any other bright lights and then shine your light at the sheet. The light will attract moths which you can then identify.
- If you need to, you can use bug pots to catch some moths to help identify them.

Considerations

- Avoid touching moth's wings as they are easily damaged.
- Choose a warm night with little wind as this is when moths will be most active.
- The brighter the light, the more moths will be attracted. Remember that if you are in a built-up area, you might need to warn your neighbours that you will be shining a light at night.



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