

# Survey guide

# Pitfall traps

Pitfall traps are used to look at ground dwelling invertebrate species. This survey technique is ideal for surveying insects that live underneath bushes and low undergrowth.

## Equipment

- A plastic cup or container
- A trowel or something to dig with
- Pen and pencil to record your results
- A magnifying glass can be useful

## Method

- Dig a small hole in the ground and place the cup or container inside. The top of the cup should be below ground level so insects fall in.
- Leave the cup overnight and any insects will be trapped if they fall in.
- If the forecast is rain, place a small canopy over the cup to prevent it filling with water. If in doubt, check the container and remove it before it rains.

## Considerations

- The top of the cup or container must be lower than the ground otherwise insects won't fall in.
- Flying insects, like beetles, may escape.
- This technique, only surveys a small area.
- Avoid leaving pitfall traps out in the rain as the container may fill with water causing any trapped insects to drown.



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