

Light Trap Protocol

1. Select site for deployment. It should be within 10 feet of the river's edge, just above the day's high water line.
2. Deploy the trap in the selected area, within an hour after true sunset (dusk). Place tray flat on the ground. Keep in mind changing water discharge, will your trap float away?
3. Pour the contents of one sample bottle into the tray and place the ultraviolet lamp across one end of the tray. Orient the lamp to shine towards the ethanol. Orient the tray so light shines towards the river. Turn on the lamp and record "open time" on the provided data sheet.
4. Leave the trap out for one hour. After one hour turn light off and note the "close time". If you are over or under one hour, please record your time accurately. Pour the alcohol and the night's catch back into the sample bottle. If needed, use the pipette and extra ethanol to get all bugs out of tray. Write the day's date, river mile and your initials on a provided paper label and put this inside the sample bottle. Close the lid tightly. Label the outside of the bottle with a provided barcode (try to wipe off sand and ethanol before placing barcode).
5. Fill out a datasheet for each sample:
 - Place one barcode on the datasheet and place the matching barcode on the outside of the sample bottle
 - Record river/river segment (ie: Cataract, Dinosaur, Yampa, San Juan Upper/Lower, etc..) and river mile
 - Circle the dominant habitat type in which you placed the trap; only circle one habitat
 - Record the air temperature in degrees Celsius
 - Estimate the wind speed and note the predominant direction it's blowing (upstream/downstream)
 - Jot down notes about conditions or events that may have affected your sample

Each Kit contains:

Sterilite tray and lid
2 Fluorescent lamps
250ml sample bottles filled with Ethanol
Writing utensils
Rite-in-the-Rain datasheets
Sample bottle internal labels
Barcodes
Pipette
Thermometer
Extra Batteries
River guide



Thank you for being a Citizen Scientist and have fun on the river!