Protocol 4: Canopy Cover

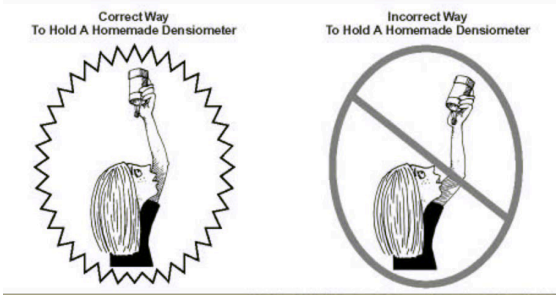
Materials:

- Field book or field sheets and pencil or waterproof pen
- Densiometer

Method:

For our purpose we are interested in the canopy above the stream. This protocol can be used anywhere.

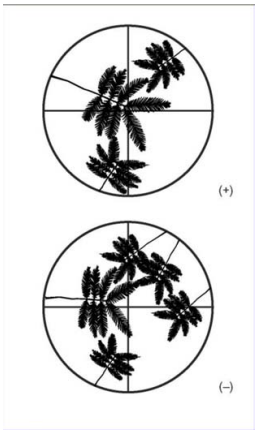
1. Look up through the densiometer, making sure that the densitometer is vertical and the metal washer or nut is directly below the intersection of the crosshairs at the top of the tube.



2. If you see vegetation, twigs, or branches **touching the crosshair intersection**, you record this as "+" meaning that there is canopy.

3. If you **do not** see vegetation, twigs, or branches **touching the crosshair intersection**, you record this as "-" meaning that you saw the sky above the intersection of the crosshairs.

4. Take as many samples as possible along one side of the sampling reach, and then the other side (at least 10 samples).



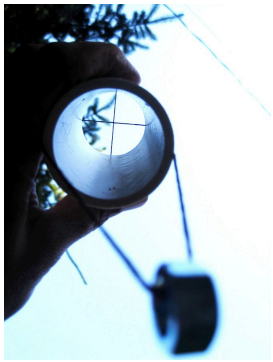
To calculate the canopy coverage:

$$\frac{\text{Number of "+" results}}{\text{Total number of samples}}$$

(multiply answer by 100 for % coverage)

(images above from: www.rbnc.org/schoolunits/schlphoto/terreco/Densi_inst.pdf *Modified from TEREZA, Association for Environmental Education, Czech Republic (1996))*

Forest canopy classification:
10-39%= Open canopy
40-69%= Moderately closed canopy
70-100%= Closed canopy



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