

The experimental set for



The presented system of experimental trays permits conducting field experiments at considerable depths, all year round, and with no application of diving techniques. The deployed set can be entirely hidden under water, which is an advantage in crowded areas. The set is composed of single units, each composed of a tray filled with a substrate, four-legged bridles, and a hanging rope with a removable marker float fixed on top by means of a carabiner clip. The float provides information on the location of deployed trays, and permits proper distribution of next trays to be deployed. After deployment from a boat, the units are connected with a rope, extended on one end by a sinking retrieval rope. The floats are removed immediately after deployment. Any number of units can be deployed to the bottom. It depends on the experimental design and the number of replicates. Retrieval of the set starts with locating the trays by means of GPS, and searching for the retrieval rope by means of a grappling hook dragged behind the boat. Based on our own experience and the literature, the possibilities of development of the described system are proposed depending on the local field conditions and research objectives.

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Obtenir le document : EDP Sciences

Mots clés : field experiment, sediments, trays, macroinvertebrates, hydrophytes, expérimentation de terrain, sédiment, essais, macroinvertébrés, hydrophytes

Thème (issu du Text Mining) : MILIEU NATUREL

Date : 2017-02-28

Format : text/xml

Source : <https://doi.org/10.1051/kmae/2017003>

Langue : Anglais

Télécharger les documents : <https://www.kmae-journal.org/10.1051/kmae/2017003/pdf>

Permalien : <https://www.documentation.eauetbiodiversite.fr/notice/the-experimental-set-for0>

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