

Best practices on documenting ecological data

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1. defining individual (frequency, abundance, biomass) to access frequency, abundance, density;
2. characterizing substrate/host (animals, fungi, plants, rocks, soil, water, dung) to reveal host/substrate specificities (or not) and hidden diversity (molecular ecology);
3. characterizing ecosystem/biome (vegetation, elevation, soil);
4. detailing the locality (coordinates) to better understand distribution and provide data for ecological modeling;
5. choosing the most suitable sampling methods (quadrants, transects, seasonality) to better assess the diversity and distribution of the target group;
6. using abiotic data (precipitation, temperature, luminosity, oxygen, pH, soil chemistry) to access factors influencing fungal occurrence and distribution.