

## SCENT STATION PROTOCOL

### **Purpose**

Data collected at scent stations can provide verification of species and an index to species diversity in an area.

### **Materials**

Flour, bentonite or other inert fine powder  
Scent (often juice from canned sardines)  
Hula hoop (or other frame about 1 meter (34 inches) in diameter)  
Latex gloves (for handling canned sardines)  
Small whisk broom  
Rake, flat shovel or other tool to clear and level station site  
Data sheets  
Clip board  
Waterproof pen or pencil  
Ruler  
Camera  
Track identification guide

### **Procedure**

1. Before going to the field:
  - a. Chose site(s) for scent station(s). Sites are traditionally 1 mile apart.
  - b. Check weather forecast before establishing scent stations. Any amount of rain (even heavy dew) will render plots unusable.
2. At scent station site, select smooth area and place hula hoop on ground.
3. Use a rake, flat shovel or other tool to clear area inside of hula hoop of vegetation, sticks, large rocks, gravel and anything else that could interfere with the making of tracks. Level site, if necessary.
4. Sprinkle four (or other inert fine powder) approximately 1.25 centimeters (0.5 inch) deep over prepared plot within hula hoop. Use whisk broom to smooth surface, as needed.
5. Pour half of the liquid from a can of sardines in one spot in the center of the plot.
6. The next morning, return to plot(s) and on a data sheet record and identify any tracks observed.
7. Take photographs to support observations.