

RELEVE INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

The vegetation of each quadrat is measured using the releve area vegetation in each strata.

The pattern of measurement follows the one established for the timber inventory. To incorporate seasonal changes in the flora, the four quadrats of a block are measured at different times throughout the period. Quadrat 1 is measured on the first round, quadrat 2 on the second, quadrat 3 on the third, and quadrat 4 on the fourth. The crew consists of four people, one observer for each 25x25m subquadrat.

Procedures

1. Locate the quadrat center to define the subquadrats. Record location (quadrat and subquadrat, e.g., 3E1-2), date, observer, subquadrat physiography, and weather. Each observer should do the same subquadrat number throughout the season.
2. Each observer walks the boundary between subquadrats with the adjacent observer and decides which plants belong in which subquadrats. North-south lines are walked first, then east-west.
3. First, list the plant species using the following method. Search the lowest three strata of plants using the white lines on a height stick to delineate height classes (<25cm tall, .25-1m, and 1-5m). Make a small tick mark in the appropriate cell of the data sheet to indicate a species has been found. Count and

0 None present.

1 (Rare) Less than or equal to 5 individuals; record number.

3 (Occasional) Numerous individuals but not common. You have to look around to find it.

4 (Common) Occurs more or less everywhere you look, but has a coverage of less than 5%.

Very abundant species (>5%) are rated by their coverage:

5 5-25%

6 25-30%

7 50-75%

8 75-100%

Record by code numbers, not descriptors.

Search and record species for the 5-10m and >10m strata using steps 3 and 4. For tree species in the 5-10m and strata, assess abundance by the total coverage of each species rather than by the number of individuals. The coverage classes and their codes for the upper two strata are

3 <1%

4 1-5%

5 5-25%

6 25-50%

7 50-75%

8 75-100%

Note that the computer code skips classes 1 and 2; this is to make this scale comparable to the species scale used for the lowest three strata. Coverage refers to that portion of the ground that a species would cover if projected into a horizontal plane. The spaces among the leaves of ae2 /r9 0 Tc (e)

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aggregations are considered individuals for the purposes of deciding if a species is rare or uncommon. If the aggregations are unusually large, they are given more weight accordingly.

3. If a species cannot fa

