

Soil Food Web Analysis on Kachana Station 2005

The way we did it in 2005:

Date and time of sampling: 15/08/2005, early morning

Samples taken by: Chris Henggeler and Philipp Nauer

- 1) We chose the same three areas in our “Millennium Project” as in previous years to conduct a soil-foodweb analysis. This complements existing photo-monitoring.

Area 1: managed with rest (“REST”)

Area 2: managed with high animal impact (“HAI”)

Area 3: managed with fire (“FIRE”)

- 2) We used the datum post established in 2000.
- 3) In this case areas 1, 2 and 3 are situated on a rocky hillside slope typical for this area. The datum post is about a third of the way up the slope.

From there we walked along the contour and every two steps we randomly took core samples. (To pick the spot we made use of a dart, which we threw (1-2 m) backwards over our shoulder into the area.) 25 cores were taken with use of a steel cylinder with a diameter of about 2 cm. Each core was taken to a depth of 0-10cm. We did not take the samples at any set distance away from any particular plant, but in the centre of the two closest living plants. (It is anticipated that plant spacing will vary considerably over the next few years with continued management). We noted the types of plants and measured their distance from each other. Because of the plane coming early we were not able to finish the measurement for the area “REST”.

- 4) For each area we mixed the 20 cores together and took out a composite sample of about 200 grams.
- 5) On the same day the three composite samples and submission forms were posted to Lismore NSW for analysis

Comments:

- Due to highly variable soil thickness and density it was impossible to extract the same amount of soil with each sample.
- Three days after sampling the whole area was burnt after a bushfire came through. It would be interesting to take another set of samples in a few days.
- It was meant to estimate the average plant density for each site. This has become pointless now. Maybe it could be an addition to next years sampling.

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Please find more extensive information on sampling for Soil-Foodweb analysis plus submission forms for each of the worldwide labs on the website:

<http://www.soilfoodweb.com/>

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