

Soil Foodweb Analysis on Kachana Station 2002

The way we did it in 2002:

The procedure we used for Soil-Foodweb Sampling in October 2002:

We chose the end of the dry season. There hadn't been any rainfall for several months.

- 1.) We chose 5 areas for soil-foodweb analysis to complement existing photo-monitoring.
Area 1: Millennium Project: Area managed with "Fire"
Area 2: Millennium Project: Area managed with "High Animal Impact"
Area 3: Millennium Project: Area managed with "Rest"
Area 4: Cockatoo Creek: Reclaimed wetland area now managed for fodder production.
Area 5: Karl's Vlei: Restored wetland/forest area now managed for biodiversity and heritage values.
- 2.) In each of these 5 areas we marked a datum post.
- 3.) For Areas 1, 2 and 3 (Rocky hillside slope typical for this area) we chose a datum post about a third of the way up the area being managed. 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 tube with a diameter of about 2 cm. Each core was taken to a 0-10cm depth in between the centres of two clumps of grass. (We did not take the samples at any set distance away from a clump, as it is anticipated the plant spacing will vary considerably over the next few years with continued management.)
- 4.) In Area 4 (a flat area with tight groundcover and close plant spacing) we walked from the datum post (Kachana Photo Monitoring Site Number One) in a South-Eastern direction. Every two meters we threw a dart (1-2 m) to the side alternating between left and right. Like that we took 25 core samples in an area with tight groundcover and close plant spacing.
In Area 5 we walked 12 to 15 meters from the datum post in an Easterly direction. Then every two meters we threw a dart (1-2 m) to the side alternating between left and right. We took 25 core samples.
- 5.) For each monitor area we mixed the 25 cores together and took out a composite sample of about 200 grams.
- 6.) On the day of taking the samples (a Monday) we sent the samples together with completed submission forms and payments by express post to the lab in Lismore NSW for analysis. (Ideally the samples should reach the lab three days from the time of removal from the soil.)

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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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