

COSMOS Cluster 3 2009: Rocky Intertidal Field Exercise

Name: _____

A. Census Procedure

1. Indicate the species abundance (density) and diversity by enumerating the organisms within an area (quadrat) along a transect line.
2. In group of 2, extend a transect line from the cliff towards the water edge.
3. Remember your exact site because you may be back later.
4. Sample the animal and plant life at every 1 meter (ca 1 step) from the edge of the cliff to the splash zone.
5. Tabulate the organisms within a 20 cm by 20 cm area along your transect for each meter.
6. Count the various organisms you encountered and record the data on your book.

B. Treatment of Data

1. Convert each species into individuals per meters
 2. Use the computed species densities and vertical range to plot the distribution and abundance
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1. What general trends of distribution of plants did you find in your transect?
 2. What general trends of distribution of intertidal animals did you find?
 3. What apparent physical and biological factors can you suggest for these distributional patterns?
 4. How many different methods of feeding by animals did you observe? Give examples of each.
 5. What makes the intertidal zone such a desirable habitat?
 6. What are some of the physical challenges faced by the organisms?
 7. What adaptations are used to defend against desiccation?
 8. What adaptations are there against wave actions?