

# Benthic Macroinvertebrate Protocol

1. Locate a safe sampling site within a riffle in a wadable stream.

2. Using a kicknet, disturb (kick) the substrate in the area upstream of the net for about 2 minutes. Use arm's length as a guideline for the area upstream of the net to disturb.



3. Empty sample (a kick) into a bucket. Repeat until 3 kicks are collected, each from a different location in the riffle.

Samples should be pooled in the bucket (a replicate).

4. Add enough water to fill the bucket about half full.

5. Thoroughly mix contents of bucket to suspend organisms in the water column. Quickly scoop a sample using a subsampler.

Transfer this subsample to a white picking tray.

6. Add water to ice cube tray compartments.

Separate similar critters from the white picking tray

into ice cube compartments using taxonomic resources as identifying references. Sort all organisms in your white picking tray, not just those that are obvious.

