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COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL AND INNOVATIVE METHODS FOR MONITORING SUBALPINE STREAMS ON MOUNT MANSFIELD, VERMONT.

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A newly developed method, using a modified Surber sampler, was compared with the traditional Surber in a second-order reach of Nettle Brook on the west slope of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont. The modified Surber is similar in design to the original, but samples 1/9th the surface area (100 cm² vs. 900 cm²). Kicknet and Surber methods were compared in a third-order reach of Ranch Brook on the east slope of Mt. Mansfield. We found no differences ($p > .05$) between diversity estimates in either comparison. For example, in Nettle Brook, the mean total number of Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera was 6.7 (SE \pm 2.3) with the traditional Surber and 4.7 (\pm 3.3) with the modified Surber. In Ranch Brook, the mean total for these organisms was 52.0 (\pm 8.7) with the traditional Surber and 51.4 (\pm 8.9) with the kicknet. There were, however, significant differences ($p < .05$) between density estimates in both comparisons. We consider implications of these results as we design a low-impact monitoring plan for subalpine streams on Mt. Mansfield.

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