

Ticks sampled using drag cloths (DP1.10093.001)

Measurement

Tick abundance by life stage and taxonomic identification over a 160m square transect

Collection methodology

Ticks are sampled by dragging or flagging a 1m² cloth around the perimeter of a 40 by 40m plot. Ticks are subsequently separated by life stage, counted and identified by an expert taxonomist.

For information about disturbances, land management activities, and other incidents that may impact data at NEON sites, see the [Site management and event reporting \(DP1.10111.001\)](#) data product.

Data package contents

tck_identificationHistory: Tick identification history for records where identifications have changed

tck_fielddata: Tick field collection data

tck_archive: Tick archive information

tck_taxonomyProcessed: Tick identifications by expert taxonomists - desynonymized

tck_taxonomyRaw: Tick identifications by expert taxonomists - raw

variables: Description and units for each column of data in data tables

readme: Data product description, issue log, and other metadata about the data product

validation: Description of data validation applied at the points of collection and ingest

Data quality

The sampleCondition field in each data table indicates the condition of the sample at each stage in collection and identification. The identificationQualifier field in the taxonomic tables indicates uncertainty in the taxonomic identification, and the taxonRank field notes the specificity of the identification. The identifiedBy field is provided to identify the taxonomist, and enable evaluation of observer effects.

Please note that quality checks are comprehensive but not exhaustive; therefore, unknown data quality issues may exist. Users are advised to evaluate quality of the data as relevant to the scientific research question being addressed, perform data review and post-processing prior to analysis, and use the data quality information and issue logs included in download packages to aid interpretation.

Table joining

Table 1	Table 2	Join by field(s)
tck_fielddata	tck_taxonomyProcessed	sampleID
tck_fielddata	tck_taxonomyRaw	sampleID
tck_taxonomyProcessed	tck_taxonomyRaw	Join not recommended. These tables contain identifications of the same samples with possibly differing higher-order taxonomy; see User Guide.

Documentation



[TOS Science Design for Vectors and Pathogens](#)
 NEON.DOC.000911vC | 1.9 MiB | PDF



[TOS Protocol and Procedure: TCK – Tick and Tick-Borne Pathogen Sampling](#)
 NEON.DOC.014045vL | 1 MiB | PDF



[Laboratory of Medical Zoology \(LMZ\) NEON Tick Taxonomy ID SOP, V1.0](#)
 NEONTckIdentificationSOP1.0_20250310 | 2.8 MiB | Document



[NEON User Guide to Ticks Sampled Using Drag Cloths \(DP1.10093.001\)](#)
 NEON_tick_userGuide_vG | 391.5 KiB | PDF

For more information on data product documentation, see:

<https://data.neonscience.org/data-products/DP1.10093.001>

Citation

To cite data from Ticks sampled using drag cloths (DP1.10093.001), see citation here:

<https://data.neonscience.org/data-products/DP1.10093.001>

For general guidance in citing NEON data and documentation, see the citation guidelines page:

<https://www.neonscience.org/data-samples/guidelines-policies/citing>

Contact Us

NEON welcomes discussion with data users! Reach out with any questions or concerns about NEON data:

[Contact Us](#)