Methods

Various beaches are around Cape Town are divided up into 'cleared' and 'non-cleared' sections. These were sampled for POM content in the soil by collecting soil samples perpendicular to shore, the area covered was divided up into 5 sections according to the length of the transect on that particular sampling occasion. Soil samples 20cm deep were taken each time. Each sample was weighed, dried, re-weight, placed in a muffle furnace and finally re-weighed. The differences between the weights is how you get the an estimate of POM content.