

Caterpillars Count!



Citizen Science in Action

*** <http://caterpillarscount.unc.edu/> ***

WHAT

Learn to identify arthropods

Use our ID guide and photo quiz to learn some of the most common arthropod orders found on trees and shrubs.

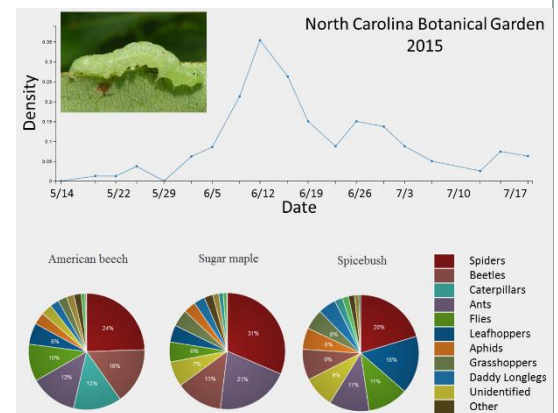
Conduct arthropod surveys

Count the different types of arthropods on the leaves of trees and shrubs. Submit data using free *Caterpillars Count!* smartphone apps.



Explore data

Which tree species have more bugs? What times of year are they most abundant? In which regions? Data visualization tools on our website allow you to instantly explore and answer these questions!



Lesson plans

We have learning activities and lesson plans for K-12 and environmental educators linked on our website!

WHY

Arthropods matter!

Arthropods are an important food source for birds and other wildlife, and they have economic and environmental impacts on our forests and crops.

Help scientists

Scientists can use your observations to better understand how climate change and land use change impact the plants and animals around us.

Education

We hope to engage educators, students and others to learn more about the world around us.

Caterpillars Count!

Frequently Asked Questions

1) How can I participate in **Caterpillars Count!**?

You can participate at existing **Caterpillars Count!** sites like Prairie Ridge Ecostation in Raleigh and the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. Contact the relevant Site Coordinator listed on our homepage. You can also create a new site (see #2).

2) How can I create a new **Caterpillars Count!** site?

Caterpillars Count! sites are typically at established locations such as schools, environmental education centers, bird banding stations, and other places that are likely to have large numbers of potential participants. If you are interested in learning more about starting a new site, please contact us at caterpillarscount@gmail.com!

3) How long does it take to do **Caterpillars Count!** surveys?

The time it takes will depend on how many surveys are at the site, how far apart they are, and how many people are helping conduct the surveys. Someone inexperienced might take 5 minutes for a single survey while someone who has been doing it for awhile might take only 1 minute. For an average site with 20 survey trees, it might take a small class of 10 inexperienced students working in pairs about 30 minutes (not including giving instructions). A single experienced participant might be able to survey those same 20 trees alone in 45 minutes.

4) How do I submit my observations for **Caterpillars Count!**?

We have free smartphone apps available for both [Android](#) and [iOS](#) which make data submission a snap. Participants are also able to submit data online through the **Caterpillars Count!** [web entry form](#).

5) Are their detailed instructions for carrying out surveys and submitting data?

Yes! Because these observations will be used by scientists, we have specific protocols that you should follow when conducting surveys. These instructions are available on the website: caterpillarscount.unc.edu/participate.

6) Who runs **Caterpillars Count!**?

Caterpillars Count! was started by Dr. Allen Hurlbert at the University of North Carolina. He is interested in how birds time migration and reproduction in relation to their food resources.

**For more Frequently Asked Questions,
visit our website!**

