

Bear scat sample collection protocol

Modified from UC Davis Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit (3/18/2023)

Safety: Animal feces ideally should not be handled by pregnant women to reduce risk of exposure to *Toxoplasma gondii*. Scats also can contain various parasites including *Echinococcus multilocularis* (or *E.granulosis*) which are rare but potentially very dangerous if ingested or inhaled, so please either wear gloves or use a plastic bag to handle scats. Wash hands with soap and water after collecting.

<https://arcg.is/1SDG0q1>

Supplies

Latex (or similar) gloves or inverted plastic bag
Fine-point permanent marker
Gallon-sized zip lock bags



Sampling procedure:

1. When you find a scat, complete the Survey123 data collection form (see link/ QR code)
2. Avoid physical contact with scat (use stick or gloved hand, new for every scat)
3. In field, collect scat in gallon-sized zip lock bag labeled as follows:
 - a. General location description (e.g., Archbold, Lake Placid Scrub, etc.)
 - b. GPS decimal degree coordinates (from Survey123 map, *See example below*)
 - c. Date in format: YYYYMMDD (e.g., 20230906)
 - d. Unique number (can restart at '1' every day as date will be unique
e.g. 20230906-1)
 - e. Your initials
 - f. "fresh" (if wet or known to be <2 days old), "not fresh" otherwise
4. Drop off at Pred-Prey lab.

Drop off Procedure

Drop off the same day at Predator-Prey.

During work hours: Turn in the sample to Joe Guthrie or a member of the Pred-Prey lab.

After hours:

1. Open the ziplock bag containing the sample so that it is exposed to air (pinch open the sides to expose scat surface).
2. Place opened bag in the bin located next to the front door labeled **"Bear Project"**
3. Place lid on bin.

Survey 123 instructions

Bear Scat points

Date *
Wednesday, September 6, 2023

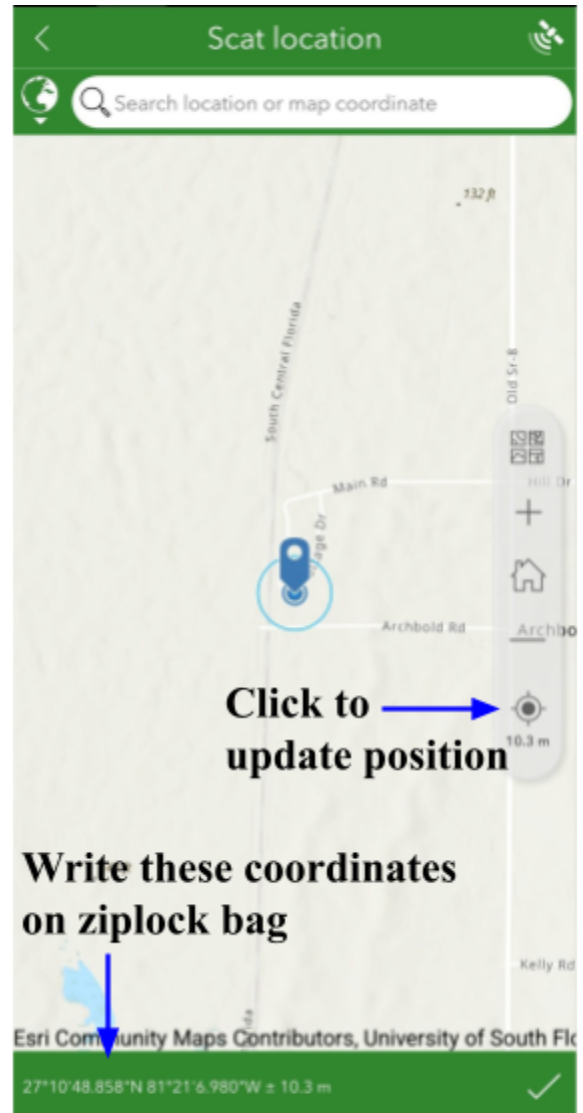
Assigned unique number (Field ID) *
Can restart at '1' every day as date will be unique, e.g. YYYYMMDD-1
20230906-01

Your initials *
Smm

General location description *
Example: Red Hill, Highlands Hammock, etc.
Red Hill

Scat location *
27°11'N 81°21'W ± 10.6 m

Click to open map



Bear Scat points

Scat picture *

Take a picture

scat_picture-20230907-001439.jpg

Scat condition *

☒ Fresh (wet or < 2 days old)

☐ Not fresh

Comments

Anything of special interest about the sample

Click to submit → ✓

Bear Scat points

Scat picture *

Survey Completed

Your device is online.

Send now

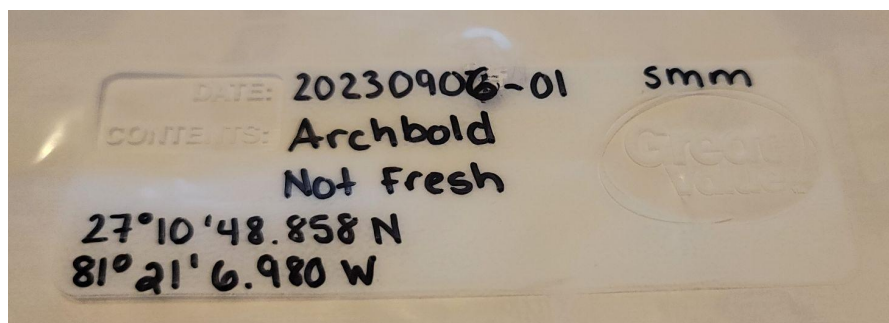
Continue this survey

Save in Outbox

**If there is no cell service,
click "Save in Outbox"
to send at a later time**

✓

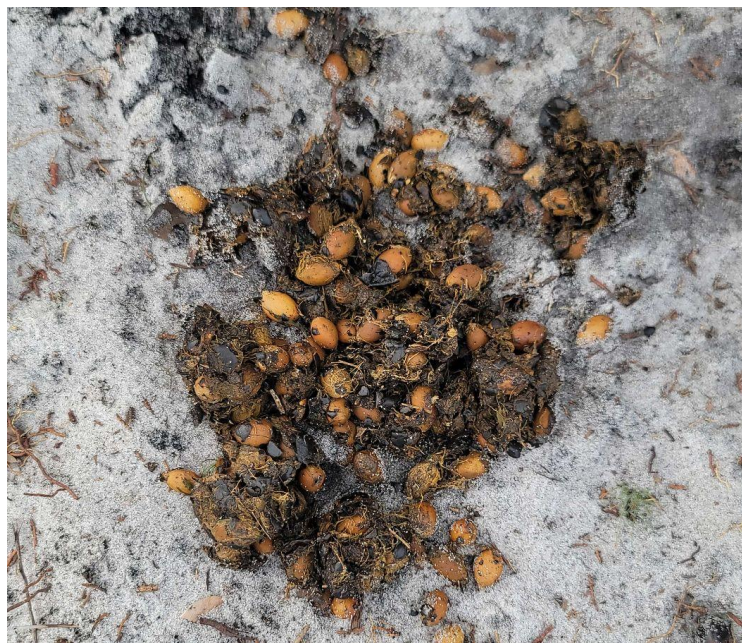
Labeled zip lock bag example



Bear Scat Examples



Picture from FWC



Bear scat found in LWR Lake Placid Scrub
on 09/04/2023