**US Ants Collection Metadata Worksheet**

The following guide is meant to help citizen scientists think about and document their observations when collecting specimens for US Ants. These are the types of data that a collector would record in a field lab notebook. These data are specifically geared towards ants, and they are incredibly important! Remember: the more observational notes that are available, the easier it would be for someone to go out and find these species in the future. ***Be as specific as possible.***

*For each unique collection location,* collect data on the locality and habitat first with a **Locality and Habitat Profile**. Then, *for each specimen* (or series of specimens) collected from that location, record pertinent information by creating a **Specimen Profile**.

**Locality and Habitat Profile**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection Site:**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | | | **Latitude (in DD): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Longitude (in DD): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | |
| **Collection date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | **Altitude (in meters)**:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| **Habitat:** | | **Temperature:** | | **RH%:** |
| **Canopy Coverage (circle):** 0-10% 11-25% 26-50% 51%-75% 76-100% | | | | |
| **Ground Profile** | | | | |
| **Leaf Litter Coverage (circle):** 0-10% 11-25% 26-50% 51%-75% 76-100% | | | | |
| **Type of Litter (circle):**  None Pebbles Rocks Leaves Needles/thatch Other Organic Material | | | | |
| **Type of Soil (circle):**  Rocky Sandy Clayey Loamy Fine Organic Coarse Organic Artificial | | | | |

***Create one Locality and Habitat Profile for each unique collection location.***

**Specimen Profile**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Specimen ID No.: \_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_** | | | **Collector: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | |
| **Collection Method (circle):**  Direct Coll. Shifting Pitfall Bait Sweep-Netting Beat-Sheet Light Other  **Describe Collection Methods (type of bait, etc.) if necessary:** | | | | |
| **Behavior (circle):**  Aggressive Sluggish Timid Solitary Group | | | | |
| **Food (circle):**  Seeds Nectar Plant Secretions Fruit Tending Homopterans Predatory Other  **Note any feeding details if observed:** | | | | |
| **Nest Profile (if applicable)** | | | | |
| **Type of Nest (circle the type, mound hidden or arboreal, and any relevant details):** | | | | |
| **Mound** | **Structure (circle):** Soil Pebbles Thatch | **Shape (circle):** Flat Mound  **Height:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Diameter:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |
| **Hidden** | **Structure (circle):** Rock Log Other | **Notes:** | | |
| **Arboreal** | **Structure (circle):** Trunk Hollow Twig Stem/thorn/gall | | | **Species of plant:** |
| **Population Profile (circle):** eggs larvae pupae adults alates (winged) | | | | |

***For each Locality and Habitat Profile, create one Specimen Profile for each specimen or series of identical specimens that you collect.***

**\*\*Feel free to copy and paste these profile templates into your field lab notebook\*\***