

Footprint tunnels to study the presence of small mustelids

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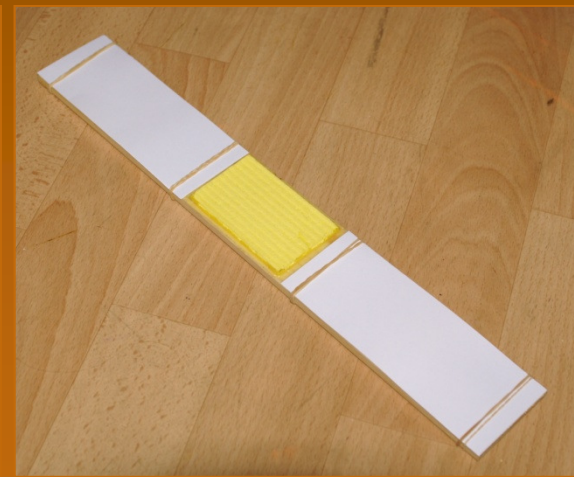


Materials;

- PVC drainpipe \varnothing 8cm
- Cellulose sponge cloth
- Bisonkit©
- Whitewood \leftrightarrow 7,5 cm
- Charcoal powder
- Paraffin oil
- Elastick bands
- Paper (200gr)

Production;

- Sizes;
 - PVC tube 40/50 cm
 - Tracking board 38/48 cm
- Cut sponge cloths to size (\pm 7cm) and glue them with kit to the board.
- The ink is a mixture of charcoal powder and paraffin oil (50 gr/ 1 L)
- Cut papers to size of the tracking board and secured with elastic bands.
- Provide each paper with date, location and transect-/tunnelnr.



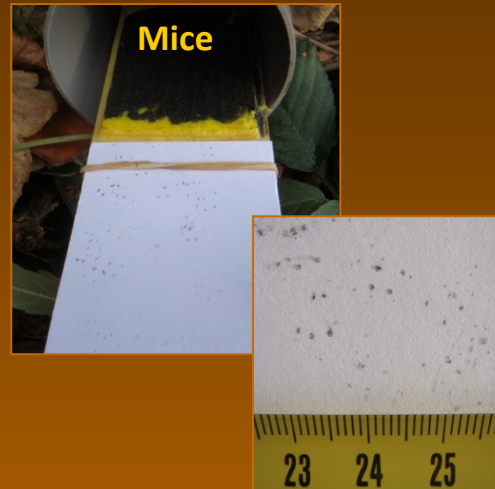
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In the field.....



- Soak the cloth with ink (shake well!).
- Place the tunnels in transects with 10-20 meters spacing in between.
- Change papers and add new ink once every two weeks.

Results



The use of footprint tunnels is easy to conduct , non-invasive and relatively cheap ($\pm 2,40$ Euro p/tube) method to determine the presence of small mustelids like weasel and stoat. This method is especially suitable for volunteers.

The use of a lure can possibly increase the effectiveness.

