

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Scientific Research Project of Anthony Zerafa

This project involves digging several small depressions into the ground, spread out over a large area, in order to lay down insect pans. Soil from the small depressions will be collected for extraction of soil-dwelling arthropods. The environmental impact of digging these small depressions will be negligible, because each depression will be small and shallow (the minimum size to fit an 18 cm diameter dish), and requiring only a small hand trowel to carry out the task. Furthermore, the same depressions will be re-used every field season, as this is a proposed long-term monitoring project. This project involves the collection of a significant number of terrestrial arthropods. Care will be taken to ensure that insect pans are spread out sufficiently (if necessary, modifying the collection protocol) so that they do not have any significant negative impact on local arthropod populations. In summary, the environmental impact of this project is relatively small and easily mitigated.