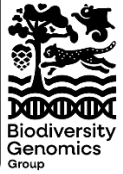


Sampling Guide:

How to Collect Flying Squirrel Droppings



In this guide, we will show you how to collect flying squirrel droppings for conservation research and molecular monitoring.

> Why clean sampling matters:

In our genetics laboratory, we analyze the DNA found in droppings. A good sample needs to be free from **contamination** (such as human DNA from the collector) – only this way we can ensure reliable findings.

Gloves protect both you and the sample!

- Avoid touching your face or clothing while wearing gloves.
- For each sample bag, you will use a new set of gloves.

This Sampling Kit includes...

- ✓ ___ sample bags (→), each with
 - a pair of latex gloves
 - a “collection bag” for the droppings
- ✓ 1 pencil or pen
- ✓ 1 small bag for trash




You should bring along...

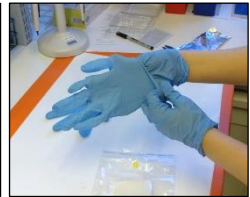
- ! A phone or GPS device to note down coordinates

Step-by-Step Instructions

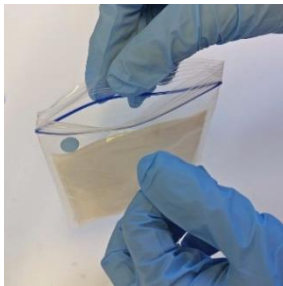
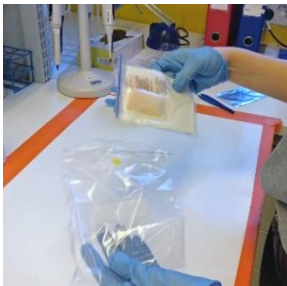
> Collect a Sample:

1. Take out one unused sample bag.
2. Put on gloves.

 **Tip:** It can be difficult to put on gloves with wet hands. When collecting from multiple nearby sites, you can wear two layers of gloves and change only the outer pair between sites!



3. Take out and open the **collection bag**. Collect up to 20 droppings (hand-picking) into the collection bag.



4. Close collection bag airtight & **place it back** into the sample bag.
5. Label the sample bag.

- Sample name (such as "A", "1", "N1", ...)
- Date (such as "02.04.2025")
- Area (such as "Nauvontie", "Lumijoki", ...)
- Collector's Name (such as "Angelika Kiebler")

6. Take off (outer layer) of gloves & put them in the trash bag.

7. Describe the sample:

Note down following information about the sample:

- Sample name
- Date
- Area
- Collector's Name
- Coordinates, WGS84
- Tree species and approx. diameter
- Approx. total number of droppings at the tree
- Any additional notes
- 📷 You can also take a picture!



Please also register your observations at
laji.fi/save-observations



> What's next?

Store the collected droppings in a cool and dry area. They can be stored in room temperature for several weeks. You can store them in the freezer.

When do I send the droppings?

As a loose rule: Please send the droppings to Oulu University within four weeks of collection. Sending them earlier is even better!

How do I send it to the University of Oulu?

You can send the droppings per post to this address:

Angelika Kiebler
Ecology & Genetics
P.O. Box 8000
FI-90014 University of Oulu
+358 46 9012200

Any questions?

More information can be found on our
website biodiversitygenomics.org
or contact me directly via e-mail
angelika.kiebler@oulu.fi



