

## Sampling Guide:

### How to Collect Flying Squirrel Droppings

In this guide, we will show you how to collect samples for scientific research in **8 easy steps**.

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#### > 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 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.
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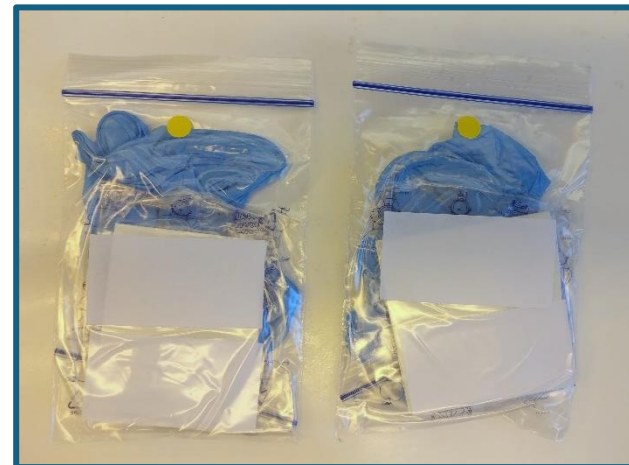
#### > You should bring along:

- ! a phone or GPS machine to note down coordinates
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#### Each Kit (2.5L Bag) Includes:

- ✓ sample bags 🟡 (at the front)
- ✓ 1 bag with extra gloves (at the back)
- ✓ 1 pencil (at the back)
- ✓ 1 small bag for trash (at the back)

📄 Note: Paper is included for structure and organization, creating three compartments in the kit – you should leave it inside the bag!




← sample bags

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# Step-by-Step Instructions


## 1. Collect a Sample.

1.1 Take out 1 sample bag  from the front of your kit.

Each sample bag  contains: ----->

- 2 clean gloves (size L)

- 1 **collection bag**  (with paper, 1-2 silica gel sachets)


 **Tip:** Place the 2.5L kit on the ground to create stable and dry surface for pen, bags, ...

1.2 Put on the gloves.

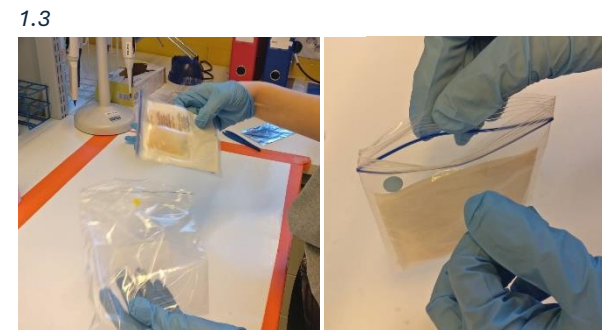
1.3 Take out and open the **collection bag** .

1.4 Collect the droppings into collection bag .

*Gather 10 or less droppings. (hand-picking).*

 **Tip:** If droppings are stuck together in a “bundle” collect just one bundle.

1.5 Close **collection bag**  .



1.6 Place the **collection bag** (blue circle) into the **sample bag** (yellow circle).



1.7 **Label and store the sample bag** (yellow circle).

1) Label the with:

- **Sample Number** (such as “#1”, “#2”, ...)
- **Date** (such as “02.04.2025”)
- **Area** (such as “Hermannin Rantapuiso”, “Nauvontie”, ...)
- **Collector’s Name** (such as “Angelika Kiebler”)

2) Place the **sample bag** (yellow circle) into the **middle compartment of the kit**.



1.8 **Take off gloves, put them in the trash bag.**

OR

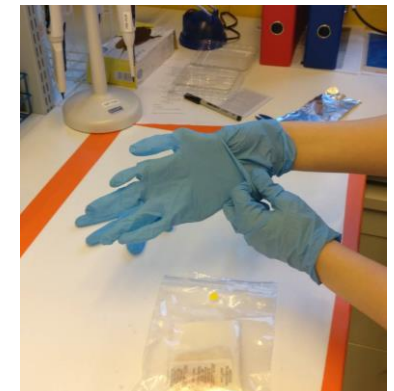
**!!! If more trees with droppings are nearby !!!**

**Keep the gloves on.**

You can put **new gloves on top** for the next sample!



OR



## 2. Describe the Sample.

- Note down following information about the sample:

- Sample Number
- Date
- Area
- Collector's Name
- Coordinates (WGS84)
- Tree species and approximate diameter
- Approximate total number of droppings at the tree
- Any additional notes



You can also take a picture!



**Please also register your observations:**

[laji.fi/save-observations](https://laji.fi/save-observations)

## 3. What's next?

- **If there are more trees** with droppings in the Area...

- > Go to the next tree!
- > Repeat Steps 1 and 2.

- **If you finished collecting...**

- > Take off all gloves and dispose of them in the trash bag.
- > Close Kit and store safely in a dry and cool place.

### Example

"#1", "OY1"

17.04.2025

Oulu Yliopisto

Angelika Kiebler

65.056001, 25.456457

Haapa/Aspen, 25cm

10-50

"found by dog", "nest box", "mother with litter"

### **How long can I store the droppings?**

If kept dry, droppings can be stored for months. Please send the droppings to Oulu University at the latest **4 weeks** after collection.

### **How do I send it to the University of Oulu?**

You can send the droppings to this address:

Angelika Kiebler  
Ecology & Genetics  
P.O. Box 8000  
FI-90014 University of Oulu  
FINLAND

*Contact us for further information!*

E-mail: [liito.orava oulu@gmail.com](mailto:liito.orava oulu@gmail.com) or [angelika.kiebler@oulu.fi](mailto:angelika.kiebler@oulu.fi)

Website: [www.biodiversitygenomics.org](http://www.biodiversitygenomics.org)

