

ST 590R Design of Ecological Field Studies

Homework Set 1.

Due Tuesday Jan 29, 2008

1. Find an example of use of a randomized block design used in the ecology or applied ecology literature. In a just a few sentences describe the situation and give the reference. Do not use the Haddad and colleagues corridor study (☺). (Hint: Some of you may have to use microcosm or mesocosm expts to find one)
2. Write a brief 1-2 paragraph summary of the Damschen et al. (2006) paper. (consider design used, size of exp units, scientific significance and so on).
3. So what do you think of the use of true experiments (in the sense of R. A. Fisher) in your area of ecological research? Are they feasible or not? Why or Why not? (~half page answer).
4. Where do you stand on the statement. "Microcosm experiments are of very limited usefulness in Ecological research." If you prefer answer the question in specifically terms of your own area of interest (conservation, fisheries etc etc) or you can answer more generally if you like. (~1 page answer). Note- There are several papers related to this topic in the special issue of Ecology where the Carpenter article appeared.