

Small Mammal Bait Pot Survey

Equipment needed

10 X Plant pot/ plastic jam pot/yogurt carton

Peanut butter

Precautions

Peanut allergies, Faecal material – gloves necessary for pot collection

1. Make two small drains in the pot (if not already present) to allow water to drain out
2. Smear a little bit of peanut butter in the pot
3. Place the pots on the school grounds in area of cover such as hedgerows and sheltered walls
4. Try to place the pots at least 10 paces apart
5. Next day, collect the pots and examine for small mammal faecal pellets. Students may participate in this but should not touch the pots
6. Wearing gloves and using a stick or something disposable, scrape the material into a universal container. The contents from all pots can be scraped into the same container
7. The container should be sealed and labelled with the date, school and contact number
8. Samples can be posted to **Denise O'Meara, MISE Project Officer, Waterford Institute of Technology, Room B01, Cork Road, Waterford, Ireland**
9. Samples will be DNA tested in the lab for the presence of wood mouse, pygmy shrew, bank vole, greater white-toothed shrew and rat



Fig. 1 Bait pot with small mammal faecal material