

**(44) ESTIMATION OF HORIZONTAL COVER**

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*Abstract:* We developed a method that provides ecologists with an objective and efficient means for point sampling horizontal cover. This method produced estimates significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) more precise than density board, cover pole and checkerboard methods, greatly reducing variability between observers. The method was most versatile in application, most efficiently used by 1 person, and significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) faster than the other methods. Factors affecting variability of measurements and application of data were reviewed.



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