

**A SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A
LONG-TERM INVENTORY AND VEGETATION MONITORING REGIME IN THE LITSINGER
ROAD ECOLOGY CENTER PRAIRIE HABITAT**

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INTRODUCTION

In 2001 a long-term vegetation monitoring and inventory project was initiated in the North and South Prairies of the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center. The details of that project, including the methodology and results of a preliminary survey, were given in a report entitled *A Preliminary Report on the Establishment and Implementation of a Long-Term Inventory and Vegetation Monitoring Regime in the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center Prairie Habitat*. The current document should be viewed as a supplement to the original report.

Here we present the results of additional inventories conducted during the growing seasons of 2002, 2003, and 2004. We also present new results from the long-term vegetation monitoring regime that was initiated in 2001.

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The Inventory proceeded as outlined in the original report. Species not recorded during the 2001 inventory were added to the original list of species (referred to as Appendix A in the original report). All of the species observed in both the North and South Prairies are given in Appendix A. For each observed taxon, the scientific and common names, family, Coefficient of Conservatism (C of C) value, Wetland Indicator Value (WI), and a five- to seven-letter acronym are listed. Including the species encountered in the original Inventory, thirty-one species were exotic (listed in all capital letters) and have no C of C value; these are given an asterisk (*) in the "C of C" column. Details of the taxonomy, acronyms, and Wetland Indicator status are given in the original report.

Detailed methodology for the Vegetation Monitoring is given in the original report. Quadrats in the South Prairie were surveyed in June, July, and August of 2002 and in June and July of 2004. Quadrats in the North Prairie were surveyed during June and August of 2003. The results of the Vegetation Monitoring survey are presented in Appendix B. For each quadrat, the scientific name, the cover estimation class, and the C of C value are given for each species observed. The mean C of C and FQI for the entire Prairie (North and South Prairies combined) is presented in Appendix C. These values were calculated using all of the taxa in the Inventory list. The native flora in the LREC Prairie has a mean C of C of 3.80 and a Floristic Quality Index (FQI) of 49.11. In this report, I do not report the pooled data for each quadrat (Appendix E in the original report).

DISCUSSION

Since the initial Inventory, an additional nine introduced and twenty-two native species were recorded. This brings the total number of species observed in the prairie habitat to 198. In the initial Inventory 22 introduced and 145 native species were observed. This increase in number of species could be due to a number of factors including the movement of new species into the prairie, the observation of previously overlooked species, and due to the fact that the South Prairie was not intensively surveyed during the initial Inventory. The Floristic Quality Index after the initial Inventory was 45.75. After the addition of the newly observed taxa the FQI for the prairies increased to 49.11 (Appendix C). This increase was due largely to the addition of a three new species with very high C of C values. These species are *Filipendula rubra* (C of C = 10), *Melanthium virginicum* (C of C = 10) and *Silene regia* (C of C = 9). Two of these species were found

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in the South Prairie and only one was previously reported in Ochs (1993 – see original report) or one of the addenda lists to Ochs (1993).