

## **BULK DENSITY (DRY WEIGHT/BIOMASS)**

### **Reference**

Allen, S.E. 1989. "Analysis of Soils" in Chemical Analysis of Ecological Materials. Blackwell Scientific Publications. pp. 20-21.

Klute, A. 1986. "Bulk Density". Chapter 13: Bulk Density in Methods of Soil Analysis, Part 1. American Society of Agronomy, Inc. and Soil Science Society of American, Inc. Madison, WI. pp.363-367.

### **Procedure**

#### **Sediment**

1. Using a coring device, sample soil to the desired depth. Carefully remove core from soil to preserve a known volume of sample (usually the volume of the coring device) as it exists *in situ*.
2. Transfer sample to a container appropriate for drying in an oven. Be sure to identify the container.
3. Dry sample at 105°C until a consistent weight is obtained.
4. Weigh sample to at least 2 - 3 decimal places.

#### **Leaf Litter**

1. Using a quadrat of determinate size, collect all vegetative material within the quadrant (leaf litter, twigs, etc.) and place into a labeled collection bag.
2. Transfer sample to a container appropriate for drying in an oven. Be sure to identify the container.
3. Dry sample at 105°C until a consistent weight is obtained.
4. Weigh sample to at least 2 - 3 decimal places.

### **Equipment**

#### **Drying oven**

Large capacity drying oven set to 105°C.