

TEA BAG INDEX (TBI) WORKSHOP

February 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Tea Bag Index is a standardised method to measure organic matter decomposition rates in soil. It can be used as reference material in scientific decomposition experiments and for citizen science.

More details of which can be found by following the links below:

www.decolab.org/tbi/

www.teabagindexuk.wordpress.com

The method consists of burying tea bags, and does not require a large effort or complicated instruments. This method was developed and tested by a team of researchers and has applications in soil research of decomposition rates in the field, as well as part of larger crowdsourcing projects.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the workshop is to improve the understanding and application of the Tea Bag Index (TBI) in soil microbial studies and to build a TBI community for advanced data generation, method development and knowledge exchange.

OBJECTIVES

To bring together a core group of TBI users to exchange their experience of using the TBI and to discuss its potential future application. We also want to use this day as a platform to share our data policy and launch a call to use the method in a collaborative geographically distributed experiment.

ITINERARY

The workshop will comprise of three parts:

Part 1

Individuals/ individual groups will present on the following topics:

- Welcome by the hosts of the meeting
- Introduction to the TBI – where did the method come from?
- Applications in the field
- Applications in the lab
- Chemical Underpinning
- Citizen Science and Crowdsourcing
- Consideration of audiences
- Limitations

Part 2

Discussion of the Standard Operating Procedure for the method

Part 3

Breakout groups to discuss:

- SOP, method validation and testing, and experimental design
- Citizen Science
- Funding and building networks

Wrap up and short presentations from break-out groups