

Camera Traps - Characteristics

1 file

We placed Reconyx® PC900 remote cameras in a square approximately 600 m apart, and centered on an ABMI site (i.e. near the corners of the bird point count stations; Figure OB00004) to passively monitor and record mid- to large-sized mammals.

We preprogrammed all camera units prior to deployment in the winter prior to the summer field season. All cameras were set for Daylight Savings Time.

We attached cameras at a height of 1.0 m (to the unit lens) to a suitable attachment point such as a tree or fence post. C-brackets were used to attach cameras. Cameras were positioned to ideally face north or south, and angled to hit the 1 m painted stake set 5 m in front of the camera at 0.8 m using the laser pointer. The painted stake was placed in front of the camera to aid with photo interpretation and analysis. Further, at each site we applied scent at the NE and SW corners, unless otherwise noted. For each deployment we recorded camera height, direction, attachment, snow depth, and whether it was scented.

In July, all cameras were retrieved. Upon retrieval, we recorded potential attractants such as, trail presence, open areas present if any, and if there are any water features. We also noted camera condition, and number of photos taken.

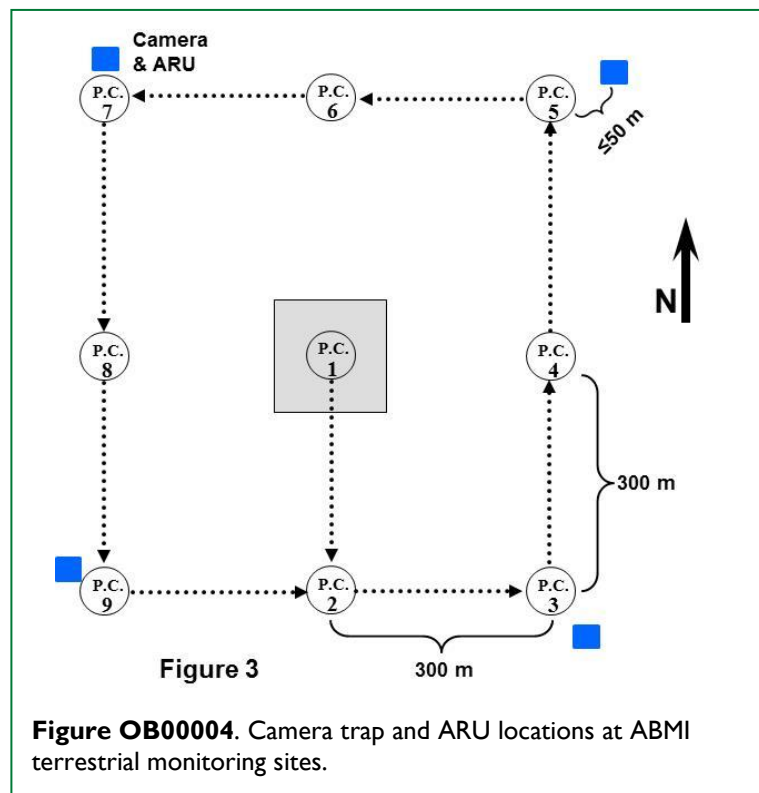


Figure OB00004. Camera trap and ARU locations at ABMI terrestrial monitoring sites.

Camera Traps - Species

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We analyzed camera trap images in a laboratory setting. Upon retrieval, we uploaded all images from the SD cards to the ABMI's image tagging software. Initially, an auto-tagger assessed all motion-triggered photos for those with no species present (i.e. false-fire) and for domestic cows [2016 onward]. After all the images are assessed by the auto-tagger, all remaining motion-triggered images are manually tagged. For each image we identified the species, age and gender, and the number of individuals present. We assess photos for both wild and domestic animals. Following the initial tagging of all photos, we subsequently verify that all species tags applied are correct.

Camera Trap Summary Data

We summarized the unique species found in each quadrant for each ABMI site. The table outlines what species occur in each quadrant, and the number of photos taken by that camera of that species.