

# GLIDE: A Global Litter Invertebrate Decomposition Experiment

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Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO



GLIDE is an international multi-site experiment to assess biogeographical patterns of soil litter biodiversity and decomposition rates, and examine the relationship between biodiversity and decomposition. Analysis of decomposition rates will use litterbags in a design similar to the NSF funded LIDET (LTER Long-term Intersite Decomposition Experiment) methods, but this study will include the taxonomic component of decomposition that LIDET was not funded to address.

As a GLIDE Core Site Collaborator, you must be able to volunteer the following services:

- 1) Main point person that can ensure litterbags are handled, placed, and collected at 3 predetermined dates.
- 2) Identify plots that are representative of the vegetation types of your site and biome.
- 3) Extract soil fauna with a standardized Tullgren apparatus and heating regime, then preserve and ship specimens to BioTrack™
- 4) Weigh bags on-site after collection and before faunal extraction.
- 5) Archive dry litter samples on-site.
- 6) Follow outlined protocols.
- 7) Collect climatic, vegetation, soil invertebrates and landuse management data from your site (at minimum climatic data).

In exchange, you will have all materials, shipping costs, data collation/summary, taxonomic sorting and information provided by GLIDE. Additionally, Satellite Sites will be encouraged to participate if a cooperator pays for materials, shipping costs, data collation/summary, and taxonomic sorting.

In order to meet IBOY's deadline, it is of utmost importance to identify GLIDE collaborators and to get litterbags on the ground as quickly as possible. If you feel as if your site can handle this extra workload in a volunteer capacity, please contact the GLIDE Project Coordinator at the email address below. Thank you.

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Nicole DeCrappeo  
Natural Resource Ecology  
Laboratory  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Phone: +1 (970) 491-1098  
Fax: +1 (970) 491-1965  
Email: [glide@nrel.colostate.edu](mailto:glide@nrel.colostate.edu)



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