

## Step 1 - Collecting egg masses:

### *Before field work:*

- Supplies:
  - UMD will supply: cooler with ice pack, petri dishes with labels, several datasheets (also available online)
  - Bring your own: clipboard, pencils (preferred over pen), scissors, hand lens/magnifying glass, smart phone (for GPS coordinates and taking pictures)
- For safety and comfort: hat, long sleeves and pants, sunscreen, water, insect/tick spray.
- Search for egg masses on a day when you know that you will have time to ship the egg masses *immediately* afterwards to UMD.
- Have a few sites in mind where you can search for stinkbugs and egg masses. That way, if you don't find egg masses where you stop first, you can more quickly regroup to travel to back-up sites.

### *When and how to collect egg masses in the field:*

- We are using an insect development model to "predict" when egg-laying by brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) will occur. While there is some variability by county, egg laying should take place throughout the summer. In 2017, BMSB egg masses were sent to UMD through 9/2/17, but the majority of BMSB egg masses were sent in by 8/18/17. Sampling this summer **will conclude on Sunday 8/19/18**. What this means:
  - There will be approximately 8 to 9 weeks between training and 8/19/18 to search for egg masses.
  - We know that this isn't the only thing that you have to do this summer! We don't expect you to search 9 hrs.
  - If you could search after you are trained **1 to 2 hours (anytime between June 17 and June 30)**, we would welcome the data!
  - Please consider prioritizing your search from **July 9 and Aug. 19** (= 6 weeks). This period of time matches the large peak of egg-laying by BMSB.

- You can collect any time during the day as long as you have at least an hour in total to spend searching.

*Recommended* 1 hour/week for the period of prioritized sampling from July to Aug.

- Keep track of time. On your datasheet, write down the time that you start and stop in case you decide to leave the site where you are sampling to walk/drive/bike to another site to sample some more. We don't want transportation time counted as part of the hour of sampling!
- Search underneath the leaves of as many deciduous trees and shrubs, and herbaceous plants as you can. Some shade trees, like red maples, can grow taller than what is possible to search thoroughly. Limit your search to foliage that you can safely see and reach while standing on the ground.

### *What information do we need (also see datasheet):*

- The participant name and email address (in case we have questions about the information provided) and date.
- At least the first time when you ship, please send your street address (no PO boxes) so that coolers can be sent back.
- County name, closest city/town, and habitat details
- Sites are different if they are greater than a mile apart. Fill in information separately for each site on the datasheet on the same collection date. Each datasheet can hold information for four different sites.

### *When you find an egg mass:*

- Try to identify the host plant and write down the name (Latin name preferred) on the datasheet.
- If you do not know what the plant is, take pictures and send electronically to Rebecca Waterworth, rwater@umd.edu. Include your name, date, site and egg mass number from where the egg mass was collected in your email.
- Remove the entire leaf by the petiole, if you can, without destroying the plant. Cut around the egg mass so that it will fit inside the petri dish.
- If the entire leaf can't be removed, use scissors to cut around the egg mass.
- Place the egg mass immediately into a petri dish with the sticker label. Be sure to complete the label information for each petri dish.

## Step 2 - Packaging:

- All egg masses inside petri dishes need to be placed *immediately* in a cooler with the ice pack.
- Keep the cooler lid closed while you are searching for additional egg masses.
- If you can, keep the cooler on the shadier side of a tree or shrub while you are searching.
- *Please don't leave your cooler with egg masses in a hot car.* Take inside when you are done sampling.
- Wrap rubber bands around bundles of petri dishes to ensure that they stay closed during shipment. Stuff balled up paper in the cooler to fill in the empty spaces around dishes and the ice pack.

**Step 3 - Shipping:**

- Please ship petri dishes with egg masses and your datasheet(s) using the FedEx postage paid slip to the researchers at UMD.