



Designation: E 1199 – 87 (Reapproved 1998)

Standard Practice for Sampling Zooplankton with a Clarke-Bumpus Plankton Sampler¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the procedures for obtaining quantitative samples of a zooplankton community by use of a Clarke-Bumpus plankton sampler.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 4134 Practice for Sampling Phytoplankton with a Clarke-Bumpus Plankton Sampler²

E 1200 Practice for Preserving Zooplankton Samples²

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 The sampler is towed from a moving boat at a specified depth. The sampler uses a net for the collection and concentration of zooplankton. The actual volume of water entering the sampler is measured by a calibrated flowmeter. The zooplankton are preserved as dictated by the objectives of the study.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The *advantages* of the Clarke-Bumpus plankton sampler are as follows:

4.1.1 It will sample a discrete depth or multiple depths, depending upon the sampling design.

4.1.2 It is a slow to medium speed sampler requiring a towing speed of three to five knots.

4.1.3 The sample size can be easily controlled.

4.1.4 The sampler is lightweight and can be used without auxiliary equipment.

4.1.5 It has a relatively high filtration efficiency factor of 0.88.

4.1.6 It is a versatile sampler and can be used in all but the shallowest waters.

4.1.7 The flowmeter records the amount of water that passes into the net.

4.1.8 Overspill of water at the mouth of the net due to excess speed of towing is of minimal consequence.

4.2 The *disadvantages* of the Clarke-Bumpus plankton sampler are as follows:

4.2.1 The flowmeter requires frequent maintenance including calibration and lubrication.

4.2.2 It is not suitable for use in very small areas or shallow waters.

4.3 There are several *special considerations* that shall be observed when using a Clarke-Bumpus sampler. They are:

4.3.1 The flowmeter should be calibrated and serviced frequently to ensure efficient and accurate operation.

4.3.2 The sampler is relatively fragile, particularly the closing device and flowmeter. This necessitates careful deployment and recovery procedures.

4.3.3 Following each collection, the net must be thoroughly washed.

4.3.4 Special attention must be given to the strength of the cable and its attachment to avoid loss of the sampler.

4.3.5 The sampler should not be used in beds of macrophytes, in waters containing submerged objects, or close to the bottom.

4.3.6 The net should be inspected frequently for pin-size holes, tears, net deterioration, and other anomalies.

4.3.7 Following use, the wet net should be suspended full length in the air in subdued light and allowed to dry.

5. Apparatus

5.1 The Clarke-Bumpus zooplankton sampler is a 5-in. diameter by 6-in. long brass tube consisting of a metal frame in which an interchangeable conical plankton net is attached at the mouth and at the cod end.³ This sampler is available in three sizes: 12, 20, and 30 cm. The most widely used size has been the 20-cm diameter net which reportedly has better collecting characteristics.⁴ The metal tube at the mouth of this

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E47 on Biological Effects and Environmental Fate and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E47.01 on Aquatic Assessment and Toxicology.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.05.

³ Clarke, G. L., and Bumpus, D. F., *The Plankton Sampler—An Instrument for Quantitative Plankton Investigations*, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Special Publication No. 5, Revised 1950.

⁴ Tranter, D. J., and Heron, A. C., "Filtration Characteristics of the Clarke-Bumpus Samplers," *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*, Vol 16, No. 3, 1965, pp 281–292.

net is fitted with a digital flowmeter from which the volume of water filtered can be calculated. In addition, the mouth contains a shutter device which opens and closes the net permitting the collections from discrete depths. The Clarke-Bumpus sampler is usually attached to a towing cable and a horizontal orientation is maintained by stabilizing fins attached to the side of the sampler frame. A number of Clarke-Bumpus samplers can be strung on a single cable for simultaneous sampling at various depths. The frame is constructed of stainless steel or plated metal not prone to corrosion. The entire apparatus weighs 14 kg and measures 0.75 m in length. Refer to Fig. 1 or Practice D 4134.

NOTE 1—See Table 1 for information on zooplankton collector devices.

6. Procedure

6.1 Under steady forward movement, three to five knots, the depth (*D*) of tow can be determined by the following equation:

$$D = L \cos a \tag{1}$$

where:

- L* = length of the tow line from the surface of the water to the sampler, and
- cos *a* = cosine of the cable angle.

6.2 Once the prescribed depth is reached, experimentally determine the duration of the tow; this will be dependent upon

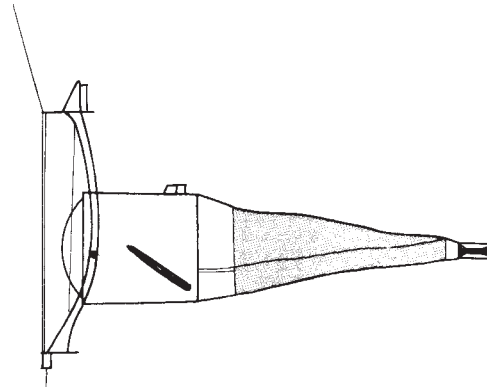


FIG. 1 Clarke-Bumpus Plankton Sampler (Illustration by J. W. Steiner and W. G. Hester, U.S. Geological Survey, Doraville, GA)

the density of zooplankton, depth of tow, and the size of the net. When the sampling depth and length or time of tow have been achieved, release the messenger to open the closure to the net and then following tow, release second messenger to close the sampler. Then, retrieve the sample, being careful to wash the zooplankton off the sides of the net into the sample bottle. Preserve the plankton as described in Practice E 1200.

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