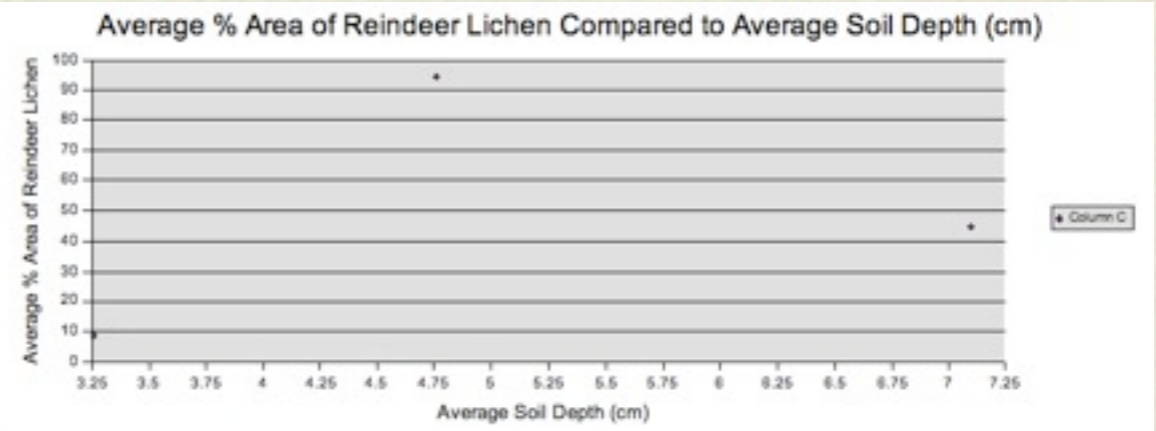


REINDEER LICHEN

Summary

At the Cathance River Preserve, the growth of reindeer lichen in three different areas was studied. In each area, soil depth, weather, and soil moisture percentage was recorded, as well as the amount of reindeer lichen. The study occurred every Friday for about 6 weeks, when data was recorded. The study indicated that reindeer lichen grow as long as there is some sort of soil for the lichen to root in. Reindeer lichen grew even when the soil depth was only about 2 cm above rocks, but grew better with soil a little deeper. The soil depth seemed to affect the growth of the reindeer lichen, in that if too much soil was in the area other plants could out compete the lichen. So, there had to be a subtle balance in soil depth so that the lichen could grow with out invasion of other plants. Weather seemed to have little effect on the lichen, besides that when there was rain the lichen became soft a flexible, while on sunnier days, the lichen was dryer and crumbled easily. The percentage moisture was collected to see how much water was being retained in the soil and reindeer lichen. The findings were that the soil retained between 1-12 % of its mass in moisture while reindeer lichen held 3-19 % of its mass in moisture.

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Reindeer Lichen

Special Thanks: CREA, Cheryl Sleeper, and Barbara Snapp

Data Table

Area	Avg. Soil Depth	Avg. % Soil Moisture	Avg. % Reindeer Lichen
1	7.1 cm	1.5% (?)	44.6%
2	3.3 cm	5%	8.4%
3	4.8 cm	12.5%	94.6%