

# The Effects of Privet on Diversity in a Plant Community

Hypothesis: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: Four plot markers, data collection sheet, pencil, measuring stick

## Procedure: On a Scenic Trail Section

(trail name) locate an area with a well established growth of privet. You will be able to tell a well established growth by the size of the plants. Find an area with the tallest privet plants. Those will probably be among the oldest plants so therefore the most established. Find the edge of the privet plot to set up the first plot.

Not disturbing any plants, AVOIDING poison ivy and looking CAREFULLY where you put your feet and hands, put one marker in the ground within the privet growth. Using that marker as one corner, measure a one meter square, marking the corners with the other plot markers. Try to not include the entire trunks of trees. Plants overhanging the plot may be included as being in the plot.

Look carefully to differentiate between different types of plants. Write the number of DIFFERENT types of plants in the correct place on the data table. Estimate the number of each type of plant and enter that data in the correct column. You may not need to use all of the blocks provided.

For plot 2, you may move all markers or you may move only two plot markers to make another one meter square still using one side of the original square. Move the markers to stay within the privet growth. If they cannot safely move the markers, they may just “eyeball” the plot. Enter the number of species in this plot.

Next locate closest area with similar habitat but with roughly no more than half of the plants being privet. Set up the plots in the same manner as in the privet plots, entering data on Middle Plot spaces on the collection sheet each time.

Third, find a similar habitat with no privet and repeat the procedure entering data in the No Privet columns.



Chinese Privet  
*Ligustrum sinense*



Leaves are opposite and usually less than 1” long. Stem is woody. Shrub can grow about 30’ tall.