

DAFOR

The DAFOR scale is used for semi-quantitative sampling, to provide a quick estimate of the relative abundance of species (generally plants) in a given area.

Abundance (number of individuals) and cover (area coverage) are often used interchangeably in this type of surveying, although in fact they may have very different meanings.

To obtain useful abundance data the areas being surveyed are divided into sections (usually squares) of equal size. This entire area is surveyed for species, and categories assigned according to percentage cover.

DOMINANT

> 75%

Rarely used in practice.

ABUNDANT

51 - 75%

Something which is very common

FREQUENT

26 - 50%

OCCASIONAL

11 - 25%

RARE

1 - 10%