The Relationship Between Insects and Toads with Water Level

Thesis Paragraph

In our experiment, our guiding question was how does the number of insects and size of the Western Toads change with the amount of water. To collect data, we walked to the wetland. There, we made an effort to collect insects and toads. We measured and recorded the data. After that, we compared the data to past years. We thought the drought might impact the wildlife living in the wetland.

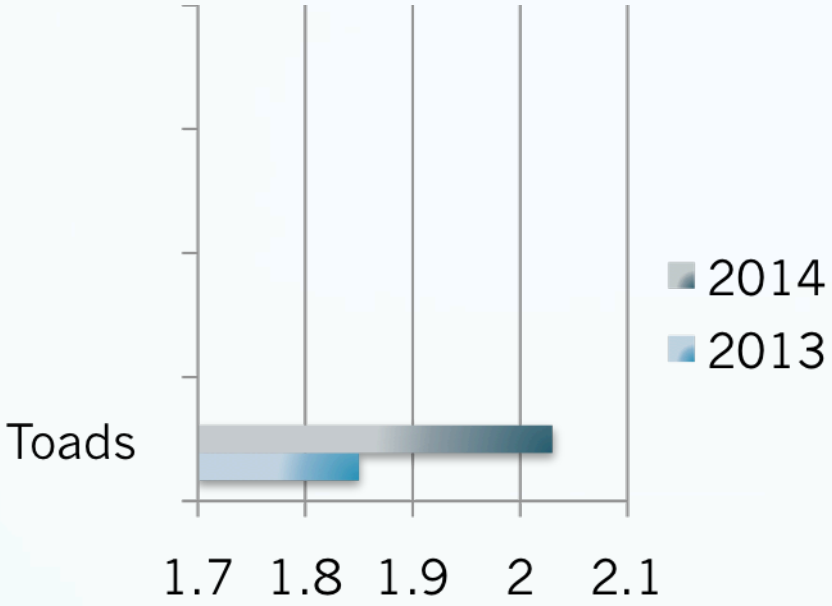
Hypothesis

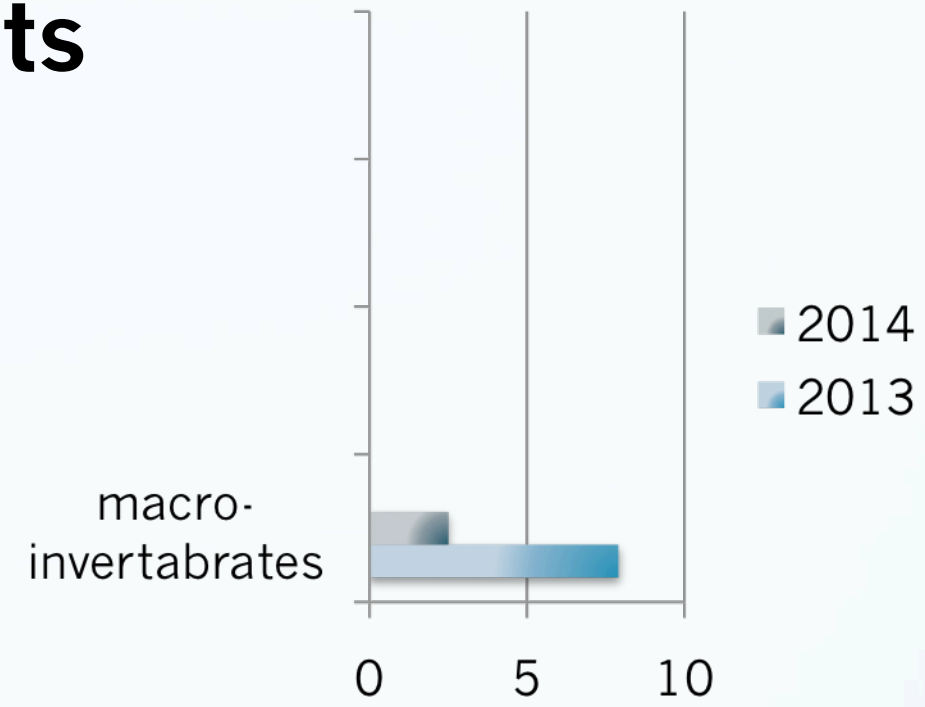
. In these experiments, our hypothesis was if there is a decreased amount of water then the number of the insects and the length of the toads would be smaller.

Procedure

1) Walked to a bridge in the wetlands.
2) We decided to collect insects. (macroinvertebrates)
A) Grab a handful of rocks and rub them into the tray
B) Rinse insects off rocks
C) Let the water settle
D) Look for insects
3) Record insect data
4) Look for frogs/toads
A) Find a toad
B) Name and measure the toads snout-vent lengths
5) Record data

Results





Toads 2013: 1.85 cm
Toads 2014: 2.03cm

Macroinvertabrates 2013:7.9 individuals
Macroinvertebrates 2014: 2.5

Conclusion

After we caught all of the 31 toads and the 5 macroinvertebrates, we headed back to the lodge. There, we compared our data to data from this month last year and found how much the drought has effected the ecosystem. The number of insects dropped greatly between the year 2013 and 2014.

The toads were actually longer than last year. One theory is that the smaller toads were more susceptible to drought conditions and died off. We could test this by measuring the toads more often in order to gain more data on the growth

The first part of our hypothesis was right. The second part was incorrect because the toads were actually bigger than last year. In conclusion, we can assume that the drought has greatly effected all wildlife.

Further Research