Where's That Moss Growing?

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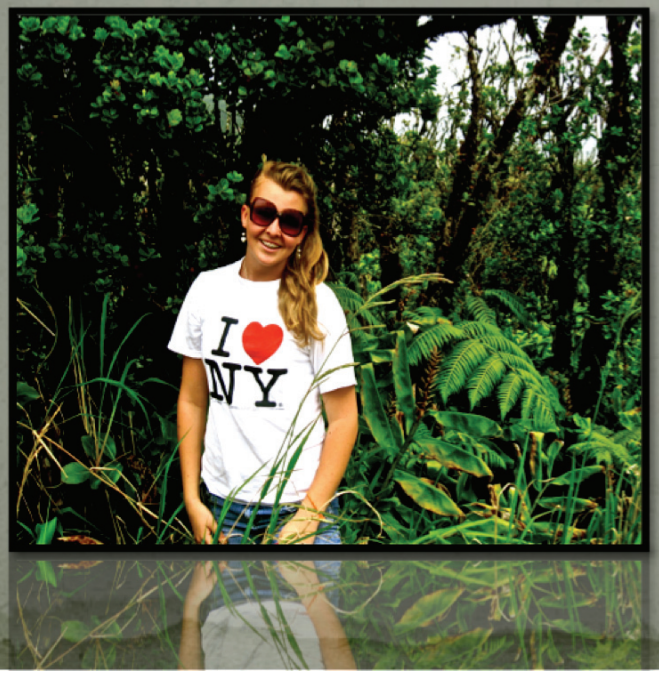

HI-MOES

- Hawaii Island Meaningful Outdoor Experience for Students.
- Wetland Forest of MaukaPu'uki.

Purpose/Question:

- Which native or invasive species of plant with rough or smooth bark collect the most moss?

Hypothesis:

- The Native plants with rough bark will collect more moss then the invasive plants with smooth bark.

Materials List:

- Meter Stick
- String
- Camera
- Pencil
- Note Book

Procedure:

- Locate 5 different plants of the same species.
- Measure one meter off the ground using your meter stick.
- Use string to create a boarder around the spot with the most moss.
- Take a picture to provide evidence.
- Collect data.
- Repeat steps 1-5 for the every different tree species you select.

Data Collection:

Name:	Moss:	Native:	Invasive:	Rough Bark:	Smooth Bark:
Ohia	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Akala	No	Yes			Yes
Eucalyptus	No		Yes		Yes
Olapa	Yes	Yes			Yes
Ginger	No		Yes		Yes
Nepal Alder	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Strawberry Guava	No	Yes		Yes	
Tibouchina	No		Yes		Yes
Ohelo	No	Yes			Yes

Data Analysis:

- We found that the native plants with rough bark collect more moss than the invasive plants or plants with smooth bark.
- Overall, invasive plants with smooth bark didn't have nearly as much moss growth as native plants with rough bark.

Conclusion:

- We found that the trees with rough bark did collect more moss because of their easy to grip surface, while the plants with smooth bark are slippery and harder to grab a hold of.
- Also the native plants did end up collecting more moss then the invasive plants by a small percentage. We think this is due to their natural ability to collect the moist air we have here in the islands.




The End