A COMPARISON OF BAITS FOR SAMPLING ISOPODS. Ayman Che Razali[1], John Waud[1]*, William Rapp[2]*, Harvey Pough[1]*, [1] Department of Biological Sciences Rochester Institute of Technology, [2] Pittsford, NY, *axc3444@rit.edu*, *jmwscl@rit.edu*, *billrapp@frontiernet.net*, *fhpsbi@rit.edu*.

Isopods are terrestrial crustaceans that play an important role in energy flow in forest and grassland ecosystems. The abundance and species diversity of isopods have been used to evaluate ecological succession and habitat quality. Some of these studies have used vegetables as baits to attract isopods. During dry periods water is a critical resource for isopods and the water content of the vegetables may be an attractive feature for the isopods. In addition, they may respond to nutrient content, texture or other chemical characteristics of the baits. A variety of baits have been used, and a differential response to those baits would complicate comparisons of different studies. We compared the response of isopods to four baits (potato, apple, carrot and turnip) that differ in water, sugar, protein and calcium content. We conducted 20 trials over a period of 3 days in July 2008 in a woodland on the RIT campus. Each trial presented the four baits side by side. We randomized the positions of the baits in each trial. We retrieved the baits after 48 hours and preserved the isopods from each bait in 70% isopropyl alcohol. We collected a total of 124 isopods. The chi-square test based on the total surface area of the baits was 4.4637 ($0.25 > p > 0.10$). Thus, we cannot reject the null hypothesis that isopods did not discriminate among the baits. We are currently determining the species identification in preparation of examining species-specific preferences.