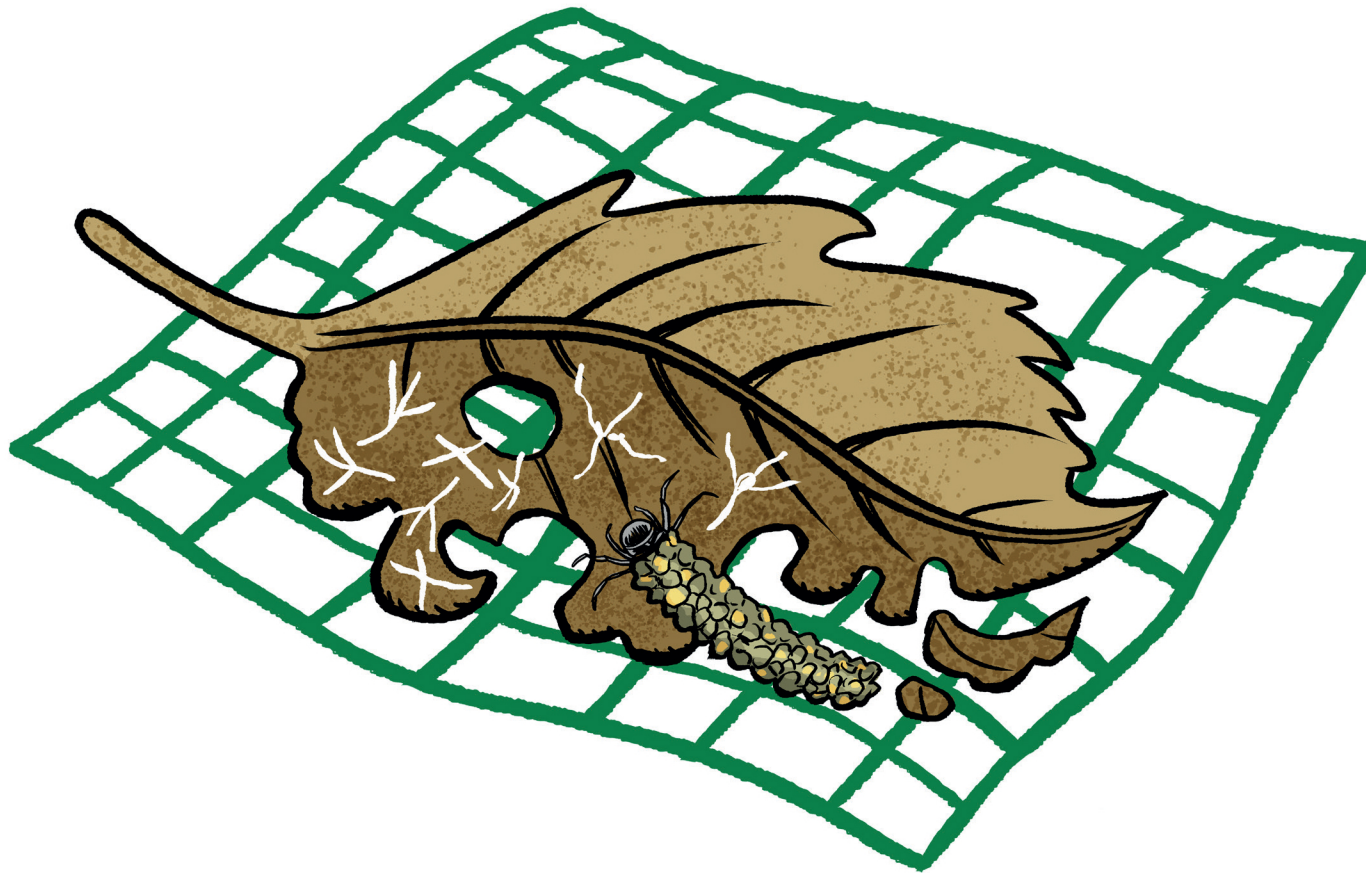


LIVING RIVER

GRASPING THE STREAM WITH A LITTER BAG

By Cristina Canhoto & Ana Lúcia Gonçalves

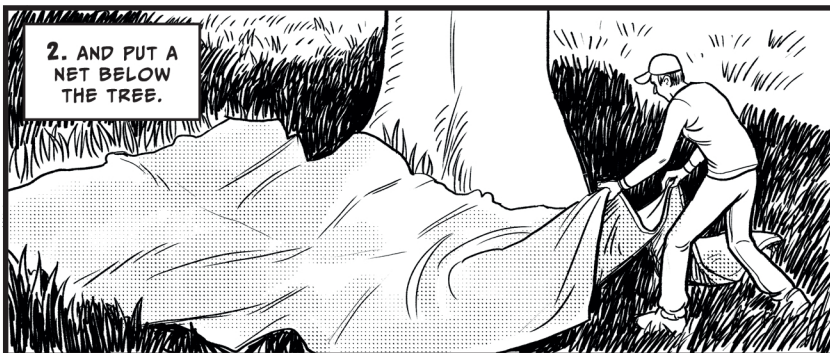
Illustrations by André Caetano



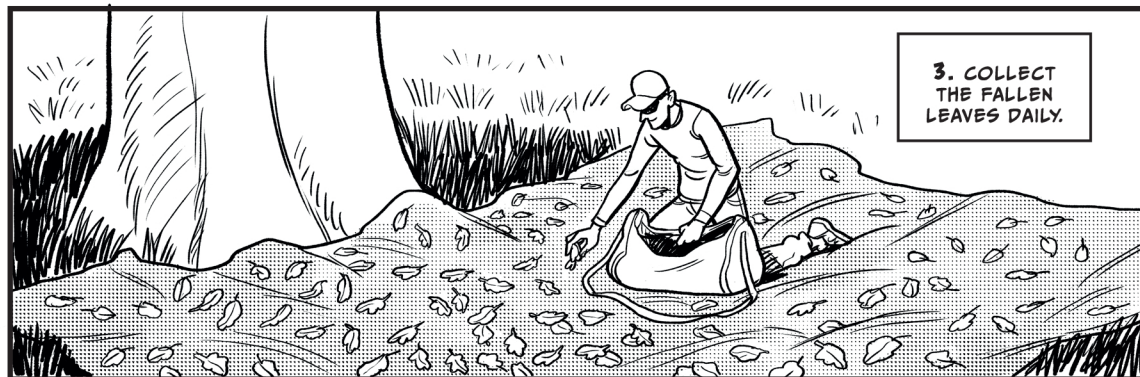
1. FIND AN ALDER
(*ALNUS GLUTINOSA*)
TREE...



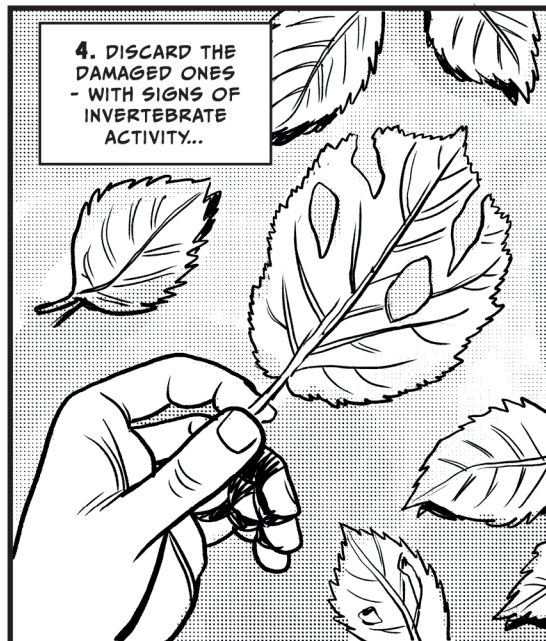
2. AND PUT A
NET BELOW
THE TREE.



3. COLLECT
THE FALLEN
LEAVES DAILY.



4. DISCARD THE
DAMAGED ONES
- WITH SIGNS OF
INVERTEBRATE
ACTIVITY...

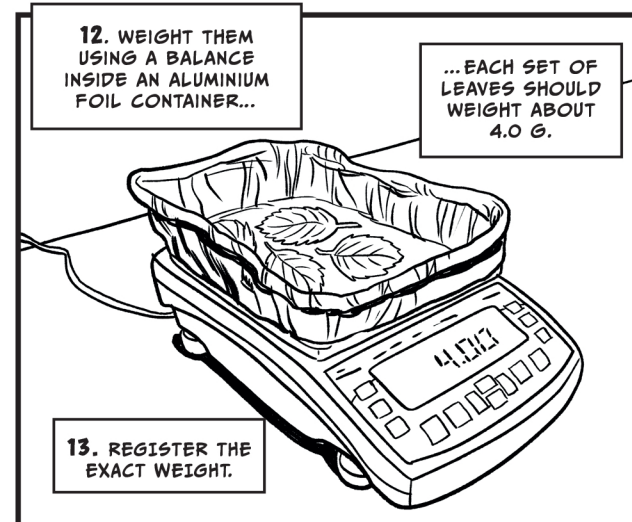
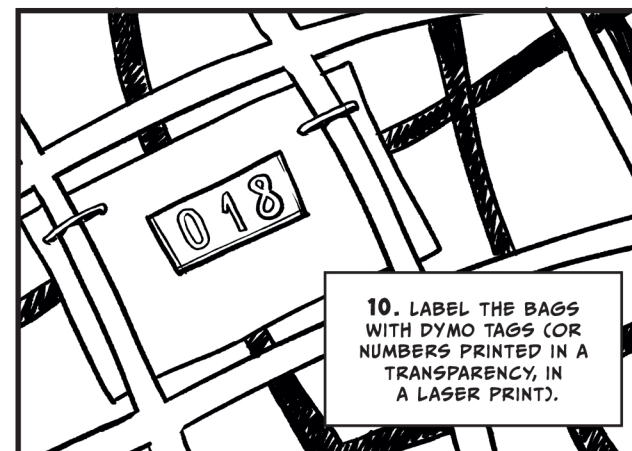
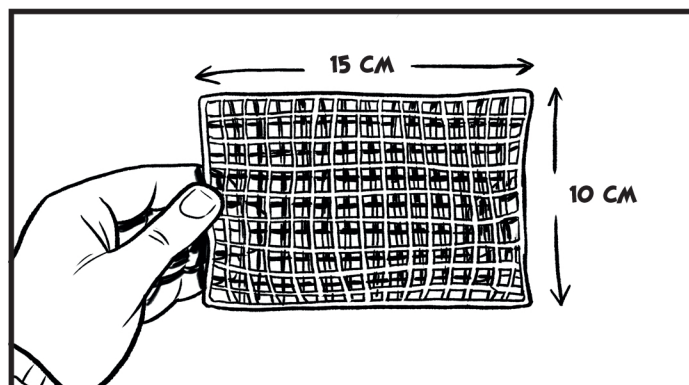
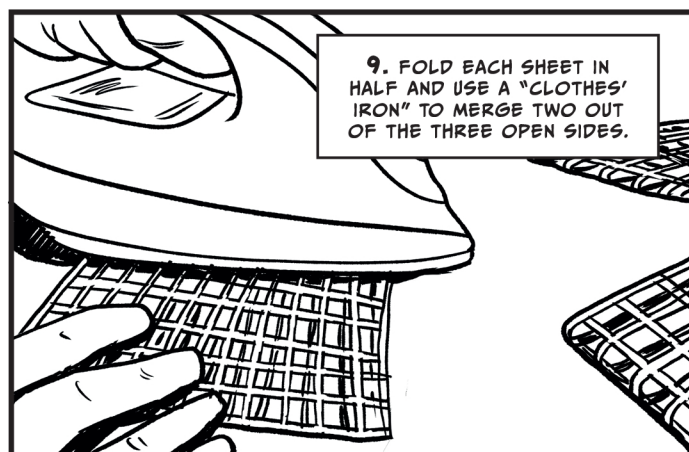
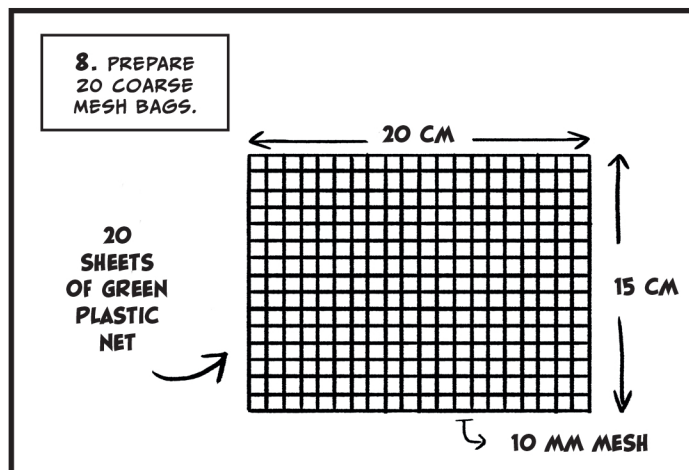
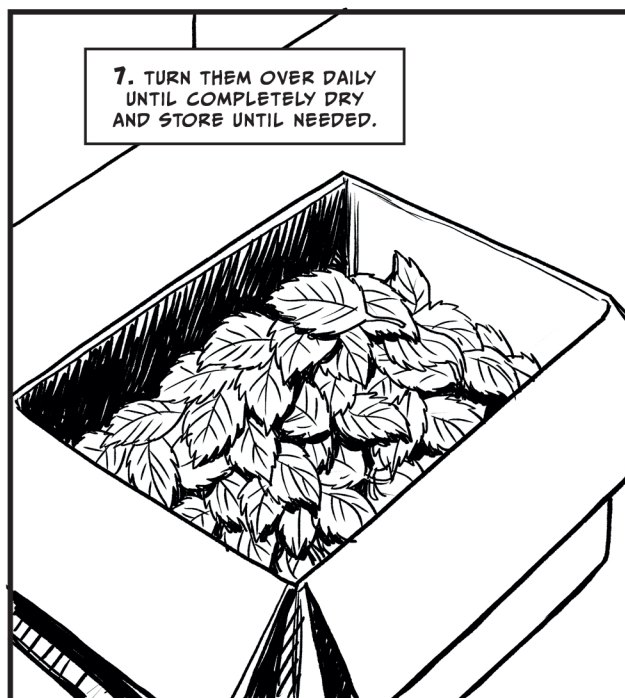


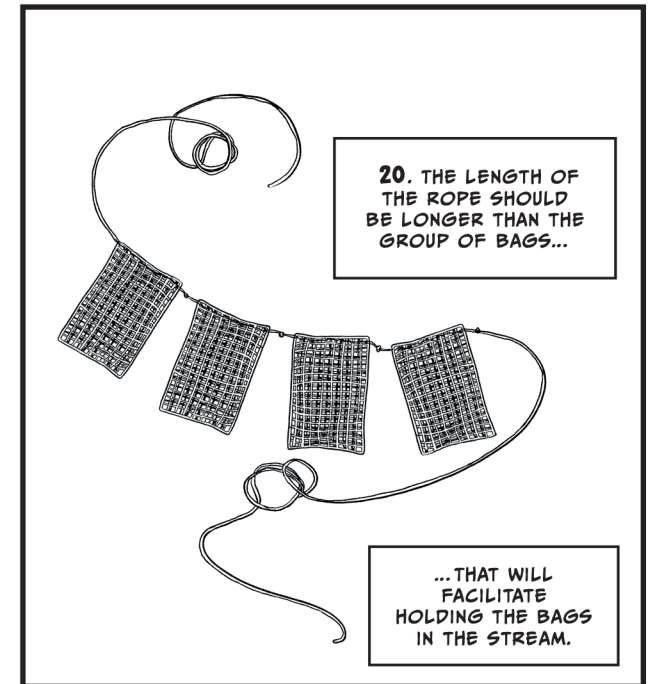
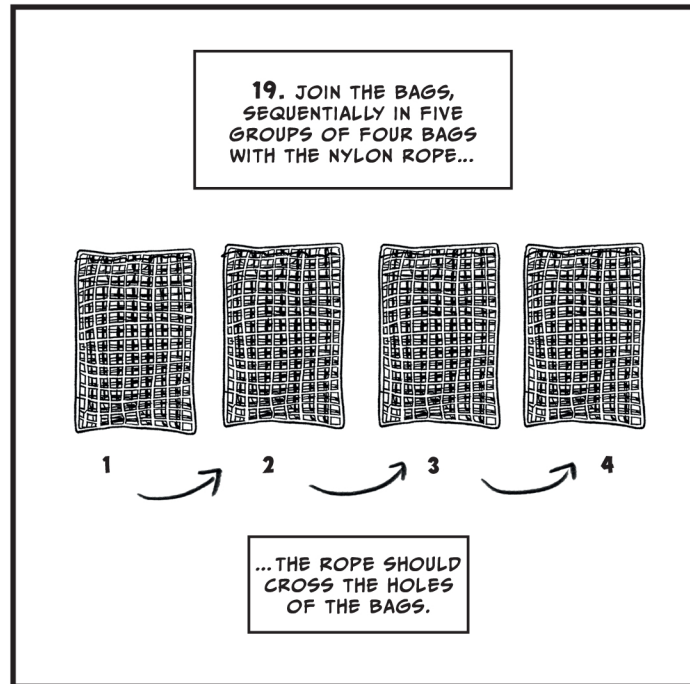
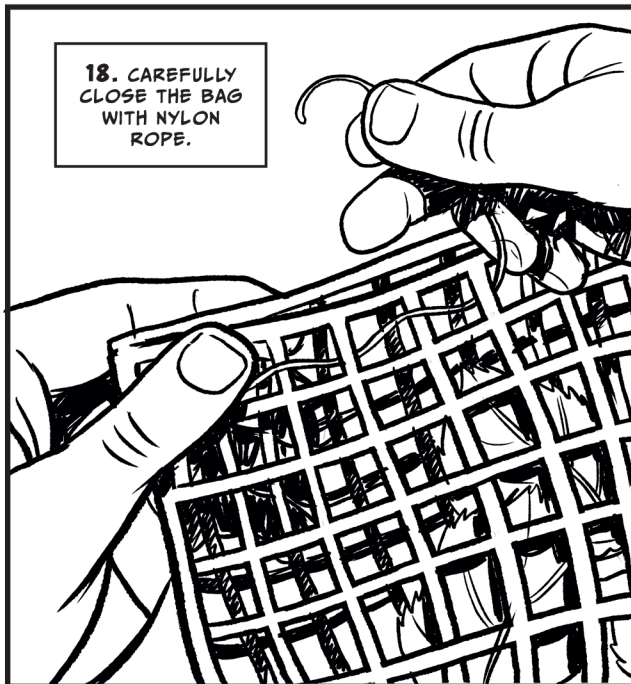
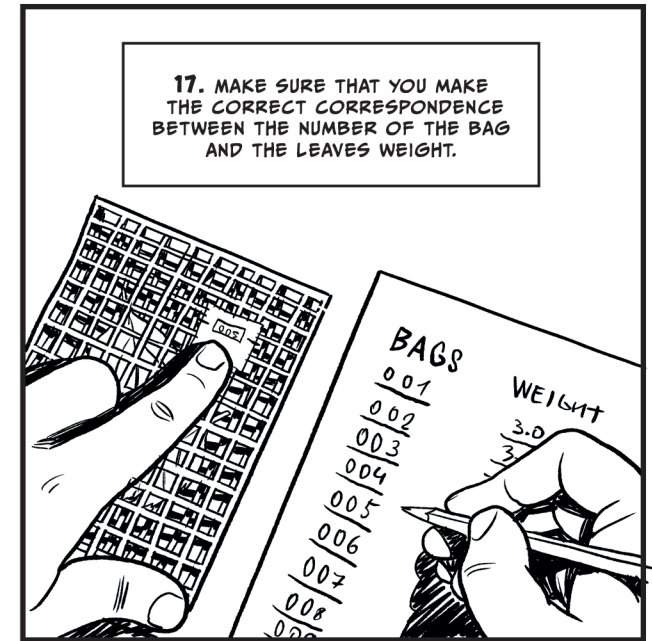
...BROKEN, OR
WITH SPOTS.

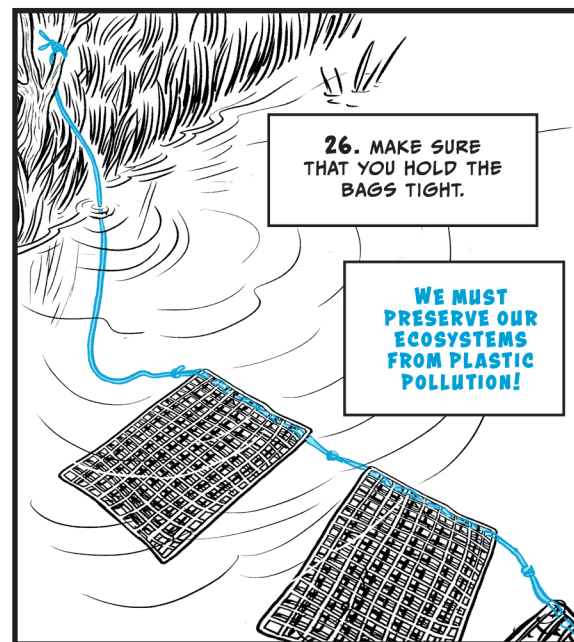
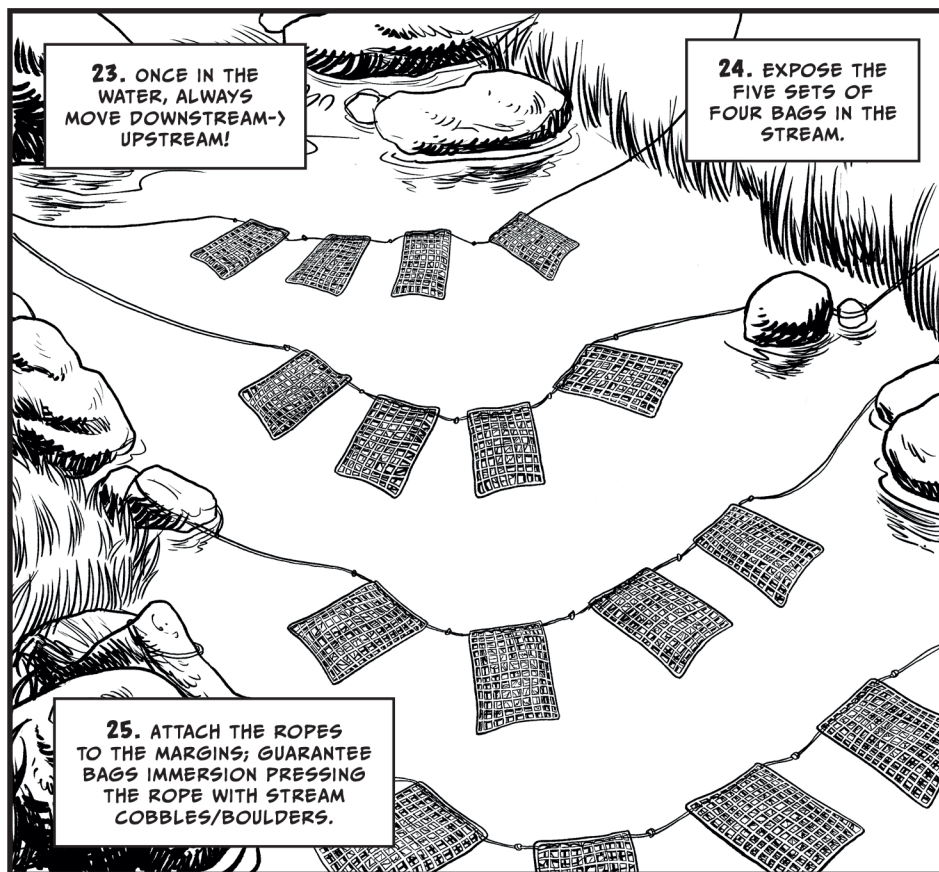
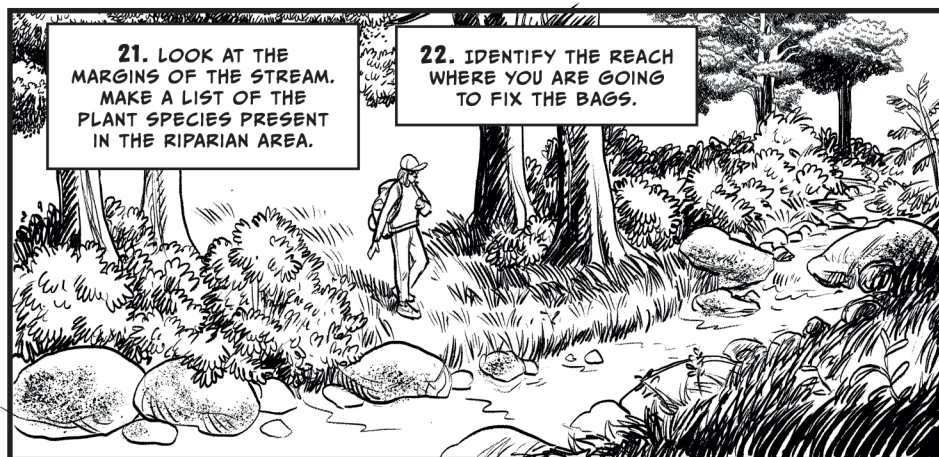


5. TAKE THE
LEAVES BACK TO
THE LABORATORY.







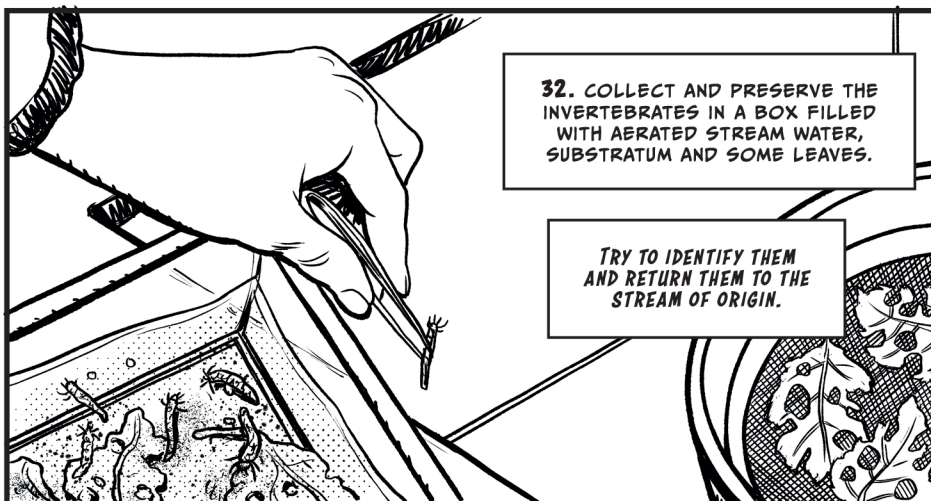


31. ONCE IN LAB, GENTLY RINSE THE LEAF MATERIAL FROM EACH SAMPLE WITH DISTILLED WATER INTO A 500 μ M MESH SIEVE TO RETAIN INVERTEBRATES ATTACHED TO THE LEAVES.

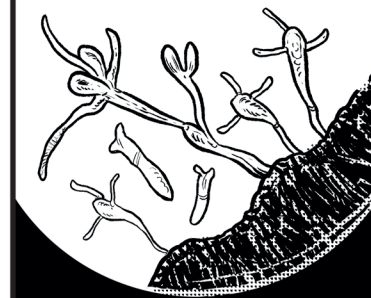


32. COLLECT AND PRESERVE THE INVERTEBRATES IN A BOX FILLED WITH AERATED STREAM WATER, SUBSTRATUM AND SOME LEAVES.

TRY TO IDENTIFY THEM AND RETURN THEM TO THE STREAM OF ORIGIN.



33. MANIPULATE THE LEAVES CAREFULLY! AQUATIC FUNGI MADE THEM SOFTER AND MORE PALATABLE TO THE INVERTEBRATES.

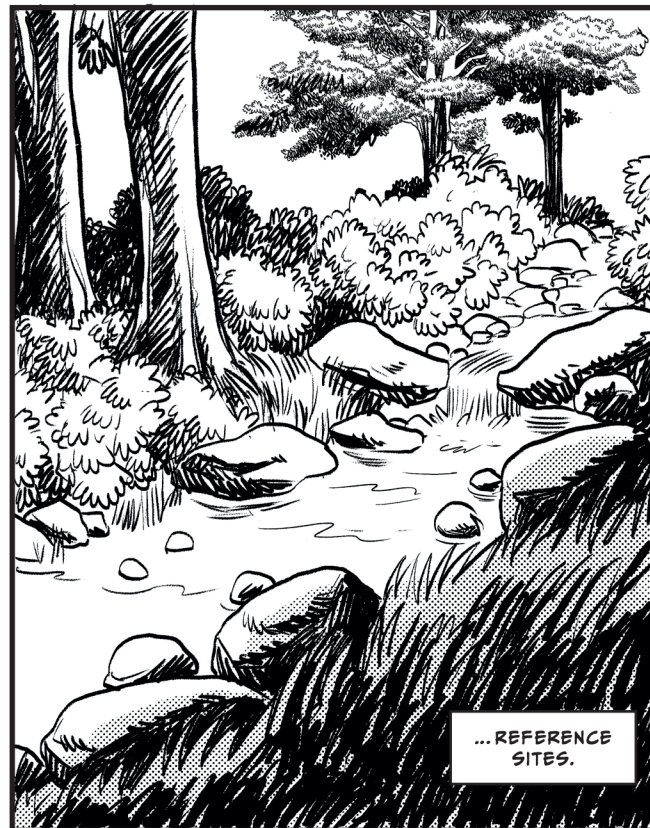
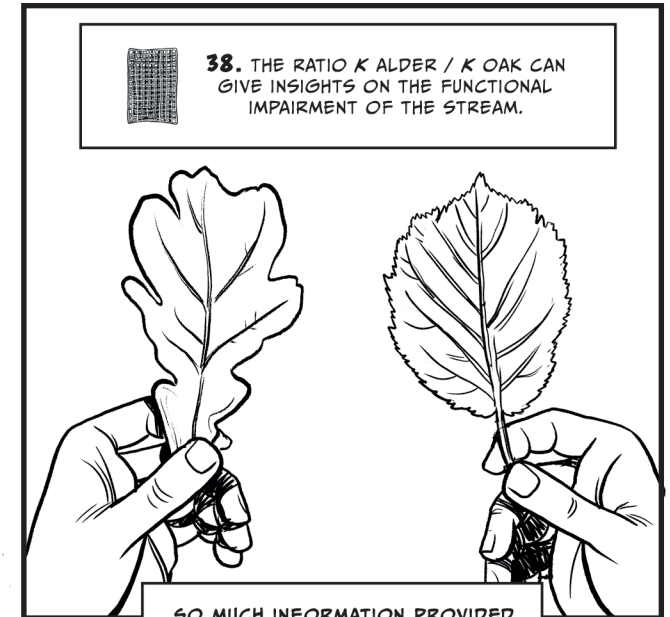
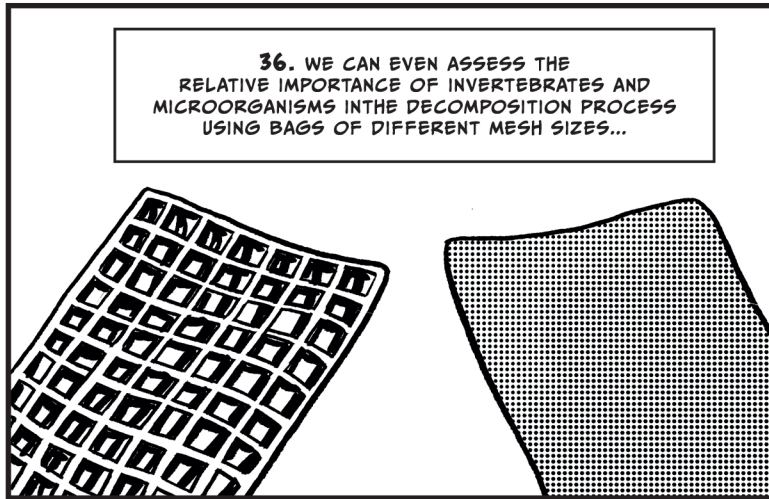


34. OVEN-DRY THE REMAINING LEAVES OF EACH BAG FOR 72 H, AT 60 °C, IN PRE-WEIGHED ALUMINIUM FOIL CONTAINERS, AND WEIGHT.



35. DETERMINE THE DECOMPOSITION RATE (K) USING THE PROVIDED EXCEL FILE AND SENSE YOUR STREAM HEALTH WITH THE HELP OF THE "SCORE TABLE".





Additional Information

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Graça, M.A.S., Bärlocher, F. & Gessner, M.O. (eds) 2005. *Methods to Study Litter Decomposition. A Practical Guide*. – Springer, the Netherlands, pp. 329.

Hauer, F. R. & Lamberti, G. (eds) 2011. *Methods in stream ecology*. – Academic Press, USA, pp. 877.

Tachet, H., Richoux, P., Bournaud, M. & Usseglio-Polatera, F., 2000. *Invertébrés d'eau douce. Systématique, biologie, écologie*. – CNRS Editions, France, pp. 590.

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