

RESEARCH ABSTRACT

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**Study Title:** Effects of May 1980 eruption on soil arthropods -- a preliminary look

**Key Words:** terrestrial animal upland invertebrate survival  
blowdown zone soil arthropods archives

**Abstract:** This preliminary investigation sampled soils in the blast area and blowdown zone in September 1980 for soil arthropods. Predictably, where disruption of pre-eruption ecosystems was most thorough -- debris avalanche, pyroclastic flow, blast zone -- no soil arthropods survived. In the blowdown zone, by contrast, soil arthropod populations were unaffected largely because they were protected by snow cover at the time of the eruption.

**Type of Measurement(s):** Soil cores were assayed for species and species density.

**Frequency of Measurement(s):** 2 week period in September 1980.

**Data Storage:** Data has not been published and may be lost. Samples were given to David Walter, New Zealand; he may still have them.

**Long-term plans:** Data available for collaborative efforts: No future plans for continuing this study; investigators were unable to conduct further sampling after initial work. Since it is unknown if data still exists, future efforts to study the effects of the eruption on and recovery of populations of soil arthropods would have to find other sources for early data. T. Seastedt is available for questions concerning this preliminary work.