

Pollen prints gathered on different surfaces other than textiles may give palynologists relevant sampling data and increase the number/type of candidates for pollen evidence. Evidence from crime scenes is gathered and sampled leading to the extraction of a pollen profile, in which geological information of where an object or person has gone can be interpreted from the botanical origins of each pollen type. Understanding the variability of pollen collected on different surfaces can contribute to recognizing novel pieces of evidence. Which can be helpful when palynology is needed and optimal pieces of evidence, i.e. fabrics, are unavailable. Common surfaces like that of plastic, glass, and plastic may offer sufficient pollen collection however they may retain an uncommon composition of pollen that does not signify the original environment. "Sticky" pollen such as entomophilous pollen may cling to nonporous surfaces with ease or anemophilous pollen may deposit on surfaces at a higher rate leading to better retention through sheer abundance are examples of uncommon compositions possibilities. Though a comparison of short-term collection of pollen on porous and nonporous surfaces we can start to understand the impact surface texture has on the pollen profile collected in the field. Non-porous and porous samples were set out for 4 hours at different elevations during each season, after which the samples pollen was harvested, processed, and mounted on slides for observation. Using controls during the cleaning and harvesting periods for each season to see the ambient pollen as well as any contamination that could have occurred during these steps. This method was devised to ensure that most if not all of the pollen gathered on the samples were from the timed exposure. Glass surfaces seem to gather more pollen than the plastic, or aluminum surfaces used for the trials. Finding the pattern in pollen deposits at such a brief time can give insight to how short-term pieces of evidence can be candidates for forensic palynology. This could increase the amount of information gathered from evidence as short-term evidence could produce a pollen profile in addition to any other trace evidence, DNA, or fingerprints left behind.