



The area of traps 12-75
in uncut field of
Lepideza and
high sweet
clover two years
old thus:

runways
sweet clover dry &
rigid and overgrowing
2 feet high. Gave
excellent overhead
protection. Lepideza
6 inches high and
partially matted but
continuous otherwise

The field, according to Peterson is seldom dry enough to grow crops but is generally damp from water draining from canyon. The last 2 years have been dry and permanent marsh which rarely goes dry is dry this year. The slough grass along field and much of field was burned last spring but microtines are back again in the good stands of slough grass. Activity in field cut recently shows that microtines have invaded area of burnt field after adequate vegetation regenerated. The area of traps 12-75 is completely utilized by *Microtus ochrogaster* and *Sigmodon hispidus*. Well developed trails are under the protection of the ^{seed} sweet clover stems, an excellent example of the factor of overhead protection. The *Lepideza* alone did not offer adequate protection but the combination of *Lepideza* & sweet clover did. Considerable sign of fox (grey/red) and skunk searching & excavating these rodents.

Microtus ochrogaster had own trail systems and were caught in them, some were taken in the larger *Sigmodon* trails. I believe that *Sigmodon* enlarge and keep open (overhead) the *M. ochrogaster* trails.

1 2/10 mi N and 1 3/20 mi. E Clinton (center of town), Douglas Co., Kansas
march 14, 1964

Inspected trap line set last night. (continue on next page)