Results

1. More information is needed to discern annual patterns and their causes.

Methods

1. Water samples were collected from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (Figure 2).
2. Samples were preserved using iodine (acid Lugol’s solution).
3. Fifty milliliters of the sample was poured into a settling tube (Figure 3a).
4. The settling tubes were stored to allow the cells to settle to the bottom.
5. Excess water was removed from the tube with a pipette (Figure 3b).
6. The remaining sample was transferred to a counting chamber (Figure 3c).
7. Microplankton were counted, measured, and identified with an inverted microscope (Figure 3d).

Discussion

- The abundance and composition of microplankton varied in space and time.
- More information is needed to discern annual patterns and their causes.
- Quantifying microplankton abundance will help scientists understand the food availability for copepods and further up the food web to protected fish.