

STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF METAL CONTAMINATION ON THE POPULATION OF THE BEETLE, PTEROSTICHUS OBLONGOPUNCTATUS F.

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Abstract

The negative effect of metals in terrestrial ecosystems has been shown so far little decomposition process and some soil-dwelling invertebrates. Organisms inhabiting contaminated areas can be stressed by metal exposure for a prolonged time and are possibly subjected to selection for increased resistance to metals. This may result in physiological or behavioural adaptations to long term sub-lethal metal exposure. The aim of the present study is to determine effects of prolonged metal contamination on population parameters, especially reproduction, in the forest living ground beetle, *Pterostichus oblongopunctatus* F. from five study sites with different metal pollution. The observed decrease in the reproductive rate in carabids originating from highly contaminated areas seems to support the hypothesis of a trade-off between efficient decontamination and productivity

key words

Terrestrial, Invertebrates, Sub-lethal, Contamination, Trade-off

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