

Section 12 – Poster P12-4

Zoological research in strict forest reserves in Hesse

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Strict Forest Reserves are forest areas where forestry was stopped. The research in these “primeval forests of tomorrow” is an important fundament for nature-orientated forestry and nature conservation. At present there are 31 reserves with a total area of 1200 ha. The common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) dominates the majority of them. 22 reserves have a reference area, where forestry is continued, to examine directly the influence of the forestry on the fauna.

Since 1990 the fauna of the Strict Forest Reserves has been investigated intensively. In each area the fauna is recorded using a broad set of methods over two complete years. Seven groups of animals are studied at species level in each reserve: Lumbricidae, Araneae, Heteroptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera/Aculeata, Macrolepidoptera and Aves. Furthermore others of the captured animals are determined („all taxa biodiversity inventory“).

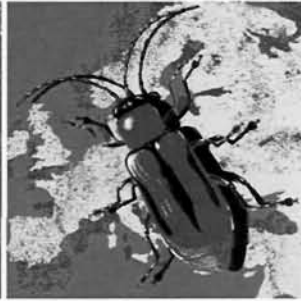
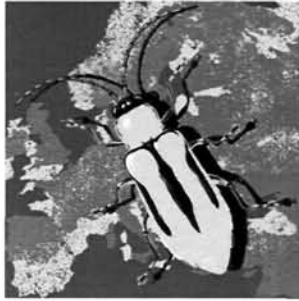
In each examined reserve 1500-2300 species were recorded; a total of 5000-6000 species can be extrapolated. A high number of rare and threatened species was found. But those species, which live in habitats of ageing and decomposition, have a too low proportion. Structural diversity and dead wood are important preconditions for the zoological biodiversity of central European forests, which obviously has been underestimated so far.

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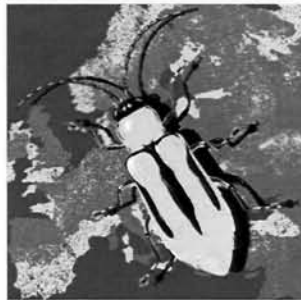


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