

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF RIPARIAN COLEOPTERA AND ARANEAE FROM THE NATURAL RESERVE “CODRII SECULARI SLĂTIOARA” (BUCOVINA, ROMANIA)

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Both beetles and spiders are well represented in the riparian habitats by numerous predatory species, with different ecological niches in limiting the local populations of primary or secondary consumers. The Natural Reserve Slătioara – one of the oldest and well conserved primary forests from Romania (and also from Europe) – offers us the opportunity to study an almost unaltered riparian association of Coleoptera and Araneae, arthropods proved to be very important in the biodiversity and pollution evaluation of moist areas (and not only). In the period 10–25 July 2003, 50 riparian species belonging to Order Coleoptera and 27 species of Araneae were identified. The relative frequency and abundance were calculated for all species and, for Coleoptera, the quantitative sampling manages us to compute the biodiversity index Shannon. Finally, some remarks regarding the ecological role of some predatory species are given taking into consideration their trophic preferences.

1. INTRODUCTION

Geographically placed on the area of the river with the same name, the Slătioara Natural Reserve represents one of the better conserved century-old primary forests from Romania, characterized by an impressive alternation of coniferous and deciduous huge trees (especially spruce fir and beech, but also some localized oaks). Attempting to identify as many as possible riparian species in a short time, without a major anthropic impact, in the period of 10–25 June 2003 we made both qualitative and quantitative sampling of invertebrate fauna, especially belonging to Orders Coleoptera (Insecta) and Araneae (Arachnida), two arthropod groups well represented in the riparian habitats. The Collembolan species were also captured for identification (det. Magdalena Gruia) due to their importance in the trophic preferences of some small Carabides (including Bembidiini).

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

All types of riparian microhabitats from the area of the nature reserve were sampled:

- the sandy/gravelly riparian habitat (the sandy or gravelly river banks without vegetation);