World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology
International Journal of Bioengineering and Life Sciences
Vol:11, No:10, 2017

Seasons and Saproxylic Beetles Biodiversity in an Urban Park in Tunisia

Authors : Zina Nasr, Faiek Errouissi

Abstract : Forest ecosystems are known for its ability to contain a large diversity of fauna especially insects that represent a huge taxonomic group. A portion of forest insects are recognized as saproxylic including the group of organisms that 'depend on dead or dying wood' about them, 20% are beetles. We focused our study on saproxylic beetles in an old urban park 'the park of Belvedere', located in the north west of Tunis (36° 49'21' N 10°10'24' W). The vegetation is dominated by old trees (Eucalyptus, Olea, Aberia, Pinus) and many fallen wood exist. Saproxylic beetles were collected using three interception traps set in the park over one year (from June 2014 to May 2015) and recovered monthly. In total, we collected 189 beetles belonging to 20 families and 57 species. Several saproxylic families (Bostrichidae, Cerambycidae, Curculionidae, Melyridae, Nitidulidae, Staphylinidae), and well known genus (Rhizopertha, Thrychoplerus, Otiorhychus, Dolichosoma, Epuraea, Anotylus) are recorded. We have retained the largest activity of beetles in spring and a very low richness in winter with zero insect per traps. This result was certainly caused by the variation of meteorological factors that mainly influenced the activity of these organisms. Therefore, we were interested on the saproxylic diversity in an urban 'forest', and these results will be more interesting when they are compared in the future with other works from natural forest.

Keywords : saproxylic beetles, seasons, urban park, wood
Conference Title : ICE 2017 : International Conference on Entomology
Conference Location : Paris, France
Conference Dates : October 19-20, 2017