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Abstract

Old-growth forests: An ecosystem approach

Saproxylic beetle biodiversity in old-growth forests of the south-east of France

B. Dodelin

Abstract:

This study compared the richness of saproxylic beetle species and the composition of species assemblages between the major forests types of the south-east of France. The forests differed by their geographical position and their composition in tree species. The results confirmed the existence of a clear local identity of the saproxylic beetles communities. This identity combined three geographical and ecological factors: the geographical position, the altitude and the dominant species of trees. Surprisingly, the period length since the last important perturbation of the stand was not a determinant factor to explain the composition of the saproxylic communities. Selective logging and deadwood retention favoured the increase of the diversity of saproxylic species. This diversity reached a maximum during the first 10 years following the perturbation, was the lowest 30 years after the stand perturbation, but increased again after 50 years with a different species composition.

[biodiversity: arthropods](#)

[forest structure: stand](#)

[deadwood](#)

[naturalness - degradation](#)

Notes

Biogeography, host tree, old-growth forest, perturbation, saproxylic beetles, selective logging

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