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COMPARISON OF BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATE ASSEMBLAGES OF AN INTERMITTENT AND A PERMANENT BROOK IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Pavla Reznickova¹, Lenka Tajmrova², Petr Paril³, Svetlana Zahradkova³

¹ Mendel University in Brno

² WELL Consulting Ltd.

³ T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute, p.r.i., Department of Hydrobiology

Natural drying up of streams is not a common phenomenon in Middle Europe. Nevertheless, the recurrent drying up of small streams in last decades has shown an urgent need to pay attention to the impact of global climate change. Drying up is a strong disturbance that influences conditions in streams markedly and causes changes in the taxonomical and functional structure of biota. The aim of the study was to compare macroinvertebrate assemblages of one intermittent and one permanent brook. The study was carried out in two stretches with otherwise comparable environmental parameters. Lower densities of macroinvertebrates were found at the intermittent site; however, the difference was not statistically significant. The number of taxa and diversity were significantly higher at the permanent site. Functional structure of the assemblages also varied. The shares of rheobionts, grazers and predators differed.

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