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First author: Sabovljevic, M.

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Abstract

Old growth forests: An ecosystem approach

Diversity of saproxylic bryophytes in old-growth and managed beech forests in the central Balkans

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Abstract:

The diversity of saproxylic bryophyte species in beech forest stands from the wide region of the central Balkans (i.e. Serbia and Montenegro) was studied, and this study is the first of such a type in SE Europe. Comparison of preserved old-growth and managed forests were made. Bryophyte species diversity is higher in primeval forest stands where the spectra of dead wood in various decaying stages of its dynamics are present. The ecological group of epixylic specialists is predominant among the bryophytes recorded. Threatened bryophyte species occur in old-growth beech stands. The dead wood as habitat together with some other factors are extremely important for the surviving of epixylic bryophyte; so these species can be used as bioindicator bryophyte species of old-growth or managed and structured forest ecosystems.

[biodiversity: moss](#)

Notes

Beech forest, central Balkan Peninsula, diversity, saproxylic bryophytes

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