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ECOLOGICAL LIGHT POLLUTION – WHEN ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AT NIGHT DISRUPTS NATURAL CYCLE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS IN ECOSYSTEM

Summary

The role of natural light in life of organisms is relatively well known. Consistency and predictability of day/night rhythm in environment caused evolution of diurnal cycles regulated by light in populations of many organisms.

Artificial light at night is connected with human activities and is a new factor in environment. When it causes disruption of light and darkness cycle, it leads to ecological light pollution.

In this paper differences between ecological light pollution and photopollution are presented. Polarized light pollution as a kind of ecological light pollution is discussed. Also many examples of influence of ecological light pollution on ecology and physiology of organisms are presented.