

URBAN ENTOMOFAUNA – CHARACTERISTIC, ECOLOGY AND PROTECTION

Summary

Majority of the human population lives in the cities. At the same time insects are the most important group of organism living in the urban ecosystems. This is the main reason of the urgent need to protect those invertebrates. Decreasing abundance, species richness and biodiversity of insects in urban areas can be very dangerous for this ecosystem. Those patterns are due mostly to microclimatic changes and large transformations of the natural vegetation and soil. Modifications of the hydrological cycle are among the most important factors of this situation. They result in warmer and more dry climate conditions. On the other hand, those changes may also result in a higher number of available ecological niches. However, at the same time most of

the species would not be able to survive in the city. Houses, storehouses, or lawns and parks are examples of typical urban habitats. Natural areas covered by vegetation are very important for saving biodiversity of entomofauna, therefore green zones should be protected as nature reserves or ecological sites. If we want to control migration of insects from suburban regions into the cities, it is necessary to create a special ecological corridors (system of greenways). Successful protection of urban ecosystem must also include regulation of water cycling, establishment of green roofs or creation of larger surfaces of permeable street pavements. More integrated and complex efforts are needed for effective protection of urban entomofauna.