VARIABILITY OF GROUND BEETLES (COLEOPTERA-CARABIDAE) ASSEMBLAGES IN ATLAS CEDAR OF ALGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Preliminary results of studies on ground beetles communities inhabiting in Atlas cedar forest of Algeria are reported. The beetles were sampled in two habitat of cedar plantation of National park of Chréa (Blida) and the National park of Djurdjura (Bouira). A total of 266 individuals adult carabids belonging to 18 species were captured using pitfall trapping from January to December 2011. Cedar plantation of Djurdjura were richer in species (13) compared to cedar plantation of Chréa (11). All species found can be considered as valuable predators. In the first habitat, the most abundant species were Calathus fuscipes algerinus (50.64%), Harpalus attenuatus (23%), Zabrus jurjurae (10.25%) while in the second habitat; the most frequent species were Calathus fuscipes algerinus (43.6%), Calathus circumseptus (20%) and Nebria andalusia (10.9%). The family of Pterostichidae is richest with 11 species. The value of Shannon-Weaver shows that the cedar plantation of Djurdjura is more structured. The values of equitability confirm a balance in both habitats.

KEYWORDS: Carabids, Chréa, Djurdjura, Algeria, Forests