ON THE ROLE OF THE GASTROPOD SLUG *LAEVICAULIS ALTE* (FERRUSAC 1823) IN THE ENRICHMENT OF SOIL NUTRIENTS

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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken to investigate the role of the gastropod slug *Laevicaulis alte* in the enrichment of soil where it lives. The soil physical parameters (pH, EC, OC and Bulk density) and chemical parameters namely macronutrients (N, P, K, Ca, Mg and Organic matter) and micronutrients (Zn, Fe, Mn, Cu and B) increase significantly ($p > 0.05$) in the experimental soil samples (slug introduced soil for 90 days), when compared to that of the control soil sample (habitat soil). This study is focussed on the significance of these slugs in their ecosystems in promoting soil fertility and improvement of soil structure.

KEYWORDS : *Laevicaulis alte*, Soil nutrients, EC - Elecrical conductivity, OC - Organic Carbon, N - Nitrogen, P - Phosphorus, K - Potassium, Ca - Calcium, Mg - Magnesium, Zn - Zinc, Fe - Iron, Mn - Manganese, Cu - Copper, B - Boron.