Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Ecological Issues
Dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

ABSTRACT BOOK

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MACROFUNGI IN DIFFERENT VERTICAL VEGETATION ZONES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES OF SHIKAHOGH STATE RESERVE (REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA)
L. MARGARYAN1*, Y. HOVHANNISYAN1, E. BOYAJYAN1,
S. NANAGULYAN1, D. BELOMESYACEVA2

1 Department of Botany and Mycology, Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia
2 V. F. Ruprevich Institute of Experimental Botany of NAS, Minsk, Belarus

*businomargaryan@ysu.am

Armenia is a mountainous country. More than 3000 km of mountain ridges are in the borders of Armenia, which is occupying 47% of total area of the republic. Biodiversity conservation in the republic is mainly carried out in specially protected nature areas where 60-70% of the flora and fauna species of the Republic is conserved. The main aim of presented work is to identify the distribution of biota of macrofungi (macromycetes) on the vertical vegetation zones and plant communities in national reserve Shikahogh. Biota of macromycetes in investigated territory has rich species diversity, as the studied area contains a variety of rare woody and herbaceous plants. Most of them belong to specific plant communities.

From 2016 we started joint comparative studies with mycologists from Belarus, to aim a full inventory, monitoring and detection of valuable and rare species of fungi in some specially protected areas, to preserve genetic diversity and the creation of a bank of samples. Currently we analyzed the data of the formation of macrofungi depending on the altitude limits of their distribution. In Shikahogh state reserve it was found, that the fungi are unequally distributed on the altitude above sea level. In the studied national reserve there are distinguished 3 mountain zones: bottom (700-1250m), middle (1250-1900m) and the upper zone (1900-3100m).

Due to the fact, that in the middle mountain zone are the main forest formations, this zone dominates depending on macrofungi species diversity (405 species). In the bottom mountain zone are found 287 species.

The upper mountain zone is known as having the least species diversity (57 species). Moreover, from the reserve zone macromycetes, we observed species that are well adapted to the environmental conditions and are found in all mountain zones. The analysis of macromycetes in different phytocenosis showed, that in the first place are forest communities (354
species). In coniferous forests - 104 species, in open areas - 50 macrofungi species.

Thus, the largest number of fungi species detected in the mountainous forest vegetation formations, that occupy most of the Shikahogh national reserve and is distinguished with the richness of highly mycorrhizal woody species.

INVESTIGATION OF POLY AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS CONTENT IN ANZALI LAGOON, IRAN AND ITS COMPARISON WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL MARINE AREAS

L. SALIMI¹, A. HAJIALI²

¹Department of Marine Environment, Faculty of Marine Science and Technology, Islamic Azad University (North Tehran Branch), Tehran, Iran
²Department of Environmental Engineering, Islamic Azad University (North Tehran Branch), Tehran, Iran

This research focused on the assessment of the concentration of an oil pollutant-poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the surface sediments of Anzali lagoon near Caspian Sea. Samples were collected from Mahruezeh station in two different seasons (summer and autumn) and analysed for PAHs using a gas chromatography mass spectrometer. Mean concentrations of PAHs Mahruezeh station were 34.839 ng/dg (June) and 61.439 ng/dg (September). This measured values were considered to be compared with marine areas in America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Persian Gulf Surrounding countries and Caspian Sea bordering countries. In contrast with other countries in the Caspian Sea border, foregoing station had the least value of contaminations at their maximum value. According to the achieved statistics, Oman and the United Arabic Emirates had less PAH contamination than aformentioned stations in Iran. Also Qatar followed the same pollution pattern as Iran while Bahrain represented more contaminated environment. In addition Anzali lagoon in maximum amount of pollution, 34.839-80.432 ng/g, had lower contamination grade than other countries around the Caspian Sea such as the northern and southern countries,