

Vertical distribution and temporal evolution of the ostracod assemblage of the Seebach sediments (Lunz, Austria). (Abstract)

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The vertical distribution of the Ostracoda has been studied at two stations (RITRODAT Grid 4B and 12B, on the central gravel bank of the brook), on 12 pipes, set at 4 different depths (0, -20, -40, -60 cm in the sediment) at each station. The different ostracod species are separated according to depth: Candona candida reaches maximum abundances in the intermediate depths, whereas Cypridopsis subterranea and the hypogean species develop maximum populations preferentially at the lowest depth. The temporal evolution of the ostracod population is rather well correlated with the movements of the sediment noticed in the RITRODAT area during the study: The arrival of superficial sediments and the changes they created in the depth of the gravel bank induced an increase of the numbers of ostracods caught (especially Cypridopsis subterranea and the hypogean species in the deeper layers). The newly deposited sediments are not colonized definitely: during the period of movement of the gravel, the samples taken at the original depth "0", are extremely poor. But these movements seem to disturb violently the superficial layer of the sediment only. The diversity of the ostracod assemblages is well linked with the importance of the rarer species, the Shannon and Weaver diversity index  $H'$  is high in spring and beginning of summer, therefore during the period of high waters. However, no precise correlation can be found between the abundance of the ostracods caught and the discharge of the superficial water in the Seebach.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Jahresbericht der Biologischen Station Lunz](#)

Jahr/Year: 1982

Band/Volume: [1982\\_006](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Vertical distribution and temporal evolution of the ostracod assemblage of the Seebach sediments \(Lunz, Austria\). 90](#)