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## **ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF TWO BIOTIC COMPONENTS OF THE BIOFILM: ROTIFERA AND CILIATA (PROTOZOA, CILIOPHORA), IN A SECOND ORDER ALPINE GRAVEL STREAM**

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### **Summary**

The present project proposal aims to obtain quantitative spatio-temporal data on the abundances of Rotifera and Ciliata (Protozoa, Ciliophora) in benthic communities in a low order stream. At the same time, the field investigation will be combined to laboratory research to determine production rate for both groups, as an approach to estimate their role in the energy flow of this ecosystem, and also to compare to other aquatic systems. Theoretical habitat preferences of both groups has been taken into account, so the study will be centered in: epigeal (hard and moss patch substrata) and interstitial sediment in the stream.

This research will take place in the Oberer Seebach (Ritrodat-Project), where technical equipment for sampling benthic sediments is already installed. In addition, this work could contribute to the framework of that project by evaluating these two groups of the biofilm, which might be involved as a link between organic matter and meio-macrofauna.

# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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

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