

MOUNTAIN STREAM RESEARCH PROJECT STARTED IN AUSTRIA

The Lunz Biological Station of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Lunz, Lower Austria, is well-known as a limnological research institute for over 70 years. It is the institute from which Franz RUTTNER's 'Fundamentals of Limnology' originated. Recently it was decided to devote the future work of the institute entirely to the study of mountain streams. The project called RITRODAT includes studies of two streams near the institute's building by many physical, chemical and biological methods, and also detailed comparative studies, particularly with emergence traps, on many other streams.

The present state of running water research is characterized by three main difficulties and by two recent findings. First, the traditional bottom sampling methods destroy the biotope and cannot therefore be used for small streams and brooklets. Second, these methods are not quantitative because they consider only the surface area, but not the depth of the sample. Third, the majority of animals in the stream bottom which are insect larvae cannot be identified to species in our present state of knowledge. The two new findings are: first, that detritivores play a much more important role in the stream biocoenoses than had been thought, and second, that individuals and biomass of animals in the bottom of streams are not concentrated in the upper few centimeters because it is now clear that the sediment is inhabited by many animals to a depth of at least one meter. The animals near the surface represent only a minor part of the total.

It is hoped that, despite of the small size of the institute, some important steps towards the understanding of mountain stream ecosystems will be made.

A detailed presentation of the project RITRODAT will be sent on request.

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LIST OF RESEARCH WORKERS ON TRICHOPTERA (continued from No.4)

Jean-François BONVALLOT Hydrobiologiste

9 rue des Carnutes, F - 45000 Orleans, France.

Present interests: Hydropsychidae, Polycentropodidae in River Loire. Previously studied: caseless caddis larvae, particularly Hydropsyche. Investigation area: Rivers Loire, Moselle, Seine.

Willing to identify for other workers: Caseless caddis larvae and adult Leptoceridae.

Material wanted: Adult males of Hydropsyche contubernalis, H.exocellata, H.bulgaromanorum, H.sinuata, Ecnomus tenellus.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Trichoptera Newsletter](#)

Jahr/Year: 1978

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