

Section 1

General Ecology and Inventarization of Biotic Communities

This chapter gives first a general geological, hydrological and pedological survey of the two areas of Czechoslovakia where our studies of the fishpond littoral ecosystems were conducted: the South Bohemian Třeboň Basin and the South Moravian region of Lednice (cf. Fig. 1). The history of the construction and further human impact on the fishponds are briefly mentioned. Higher plant communities reflect this impact very well and have therefore been investigated quite thoroughly. A complete survey is given of the communities in the South Bohemian and South Moravian fishponds, with a short ecological characterization for each community type. An attempt is also made to define the association of certain algal groupings with some of the higher plant communities colonizing the fishpond littorals. Vegetation maps based on aerial photographs and vegetational inventories are presented of the two specimen fishponds selected for intense study in the IBP: Opatovický in South Bohemia, and Nesyt in South Moravia. The principal animal populations inhabiting the fishpond littoral reed belts are also enumerated, and the various kinds and activities of decomposers living in fishpond littoral habitats are also characterized. Pollen analyses and identification of other plant remnants in peat bogs have made it possible to follow the postglacial history of wetland vegetation in the Třeboň basin; the main results of these investigations are briefly summarized.