

## **Section 5**

### **Decomposition Processes in the Fishpond Littoral**

The generally high level of primary production in the fishpond littoral ecosystems is usually linked with an intense decomposition of the organic matter produced. The decomposition processes taking place in wetlands are still little understood but great differences, both in space and time, are known to exist between various fishpond biotopes, even within the littoral of one fishpond. The decomposing microorganisms are varied, numerous and difficult to inventarize. The Section shows some methodological aspects of evaluating the decomposition and of estimating the spatial and temporal variation in the microbial production and biomass. The microbial transformations of dead organic matter and the microbes' role in detritus formation and mineralization are characterized. Most of these studies were conducted in the South Moravian Nesyt fishpond but an analogous situation exists at the Opatovický and other fishponds in South Bohemia (see Fig. I).