

Section 6

Structure and Role of Animal Populations in Fishpond Littorals

The animal constituents of pond littoral ecosystems are far more diverse than the plant constituents. This variety of species composition has stimulated several studies on the structure, density, and production in selected populations or groupings of animals closely associated, as secondary producers, with the pond littoral biotopes. As it was clearly not possible to cover all aspects of animal life in the pond littoral, this section presents the principal results of zoological studies on the species variety of mammals in reedswamps and on the energy flow through some important populations of small mammals; on the role, species composition and densities of bird populations; on the soil-surface arthropods in the outer zone of the fishpond reed-belt; and on phytophagous insects attacking the common reed. A brief survey is also given and biomass estimated of the invertebrate macrofauna inhabiting fishpond reed-belts.