

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF BLWOFLIES (DIPTERA, CALLIPHORIDAE) OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE ALPS (TESSIN, SWITZERLAND).

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A survey of necrophagous flies has been realised from late summer to fall (August to October 2002) in the southern part of the Alps. We used selective traps in four different landscape structures (cities, forests, ruderal areas and alpine meadows) along an altitudinal gradient ranging from 227 m to 1272 m a.s.l.

1580 specimens belonging to nine species of Calliphoridae were collected. The most abundant species were *Lucilia caesar* (40.8%) and *L. ampullacea* (29.3%) followed by *L. illustris* (15.3%) and *Calliphora vicina* (11.3%). Abundance and diversity were partly related to altitude, but also to landscape structures. For example, chestnut forests are characterised by the dominance of *L. ampullacea*, but on the other hand beech forests, being more shady, are characterised by *C. vomitoria* and *C. vicina*. Preliminary multivariate analysis (PCA) allowed a rather clear distinction between landscape structures and species composition. Comparisons with other studies made in the northern part of the Alps showed some distinctive features in species diversity and abundance.

DIPTERA, CALLIPHORIDAE, DISTRIBUTION, LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES.