

CHIRONOMIDS (DIPTERA: CHIRONOMIDAE) OF THE LITTORAL ZONE OF SOME LAKES IN THE TATRA MTS (SLOVAKIA)

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ABSTRACT

Hamerlík L.: Chironomids (Diptera: Chironomidae) of the littoral zone of some lakes in the Tatra Mts (Slovakia)

Chironomid larvae taken from the littoral zone of 34 lakes in West and High Tatras were studied. Totally, 27 chironomid taxa were identified. The most typical species in the littoral of investigated lakes was *Heterotrissocladius marcidus* which occurred in 82 % of the lakes, followed by *Micropsectra* spp. occurring in 76 % of lakes and *Corynoneura scutellata* gr. occurring in 62 % of lakes. The most abundant species was *Heterotrissocladius marcidus*. With increasing altitude the variety of species composition decreases; the average number of species in the lakes at altitudes exceeding 2000 m a. s. l. was just the half of the number in the lakes of the dwarf pine zone. The quantitative composition of the chironomid assemblages of the littoral also changed. In the lakes situated at altitudes of 1500–1800 m Chironominae (especially Tanytarsini) dominated in most lakes. In the zone between 1800 and 2000 m a. s. l., the dominating taxa were mainly *H. marcidus* and *C. scutellata* gr.; whereas in the lakes exceeding 2000 m a. s. l., *Pseudodiamesa nivosa* and *H. marcidus* become prevalent. Three acidified lakes, the Slavkovské pleso, Satanie pleso and Starolesnianske pleso lakes, differed from the others by occurrence of acidotolerant *Zalutchia tatrica* and by complete replacing of *Micropsectra* sp. by *Tanytarsus* sp.

Key words: Chironomidae, mountain lakes, littoral, West Tatras, High Tatras, Slovakia