

SUMMARY

The carabid fauna (Insecta, Coleoptera) of the saltmarsh of Cordovilla (Albacete, SE Spain) has been studied during 1999 and the first seven months of 2000. Six sites were selected for a periodical sampling using pitfall traps (from January to July of 2000), according to the representative plant communities, which were taken as indicators of the salt content of the soil. In addition, a qualitative sampling was carried out by hand-catching, aspirator, light traps and isolated pitfall traps.

One hundred and five species were collected, the tribe Harpalini was the best represented with 24 species, followed by Bembidiini (14) and Lebiini (12). These data indicate the saltmarsh of Cordovilla is the best salty place sampled so far in Spain, as it has not been ever reported such a high number of species (always less than 100). For each species it is indicated the time and sites of capture, its chorology and the tolerance to the edaphic salt content.

Halobiont species are the characteristic subset of the saltmarsh and are associated to humid places with high salt content, as indicated by the occurrence of particular plant communities. These halobionts are 14 species, all of them known from other neighbouring saltmarshes from Castilla La Mancha, except for *Megacephala euphratica*, a species known from the coast of Murcia and Alicante (140 km far from Cordovilla), which has probably colonised inner places using the frequent salty streams of the river Segura Basin.

Halophilic species make up the largest subset with 47 species, outstanding the tribes Bembidiini and Harpalini each with 11 species. The occurrence of *Scarites terricola* is noteworthy as there are few records of this coastal species in continental sites. Accompanying species –i.e., non/or scarcely salt tolerant species– make up an heterogeneous subset (ripicolous, paludicolous, lapidicolous) with 44 species.

A comparative analysis of Cordovilla and other saltmarshes, lakes and reservoirs of Castilla La Mancha, and the close provinces of Murcia and Alicante show that there are at

least three types of places in relation to the salt content of the soil. Those ones with moderately to low content and fresh water are characterised by low percentages of halobionts (about 4%), whereas accompanying species suppose the highest percentage (about 50%). A second type corresponds to sites with moderately to high salt content and are characterised by percentages of halobionts between 10 and 20%, whereas halophilic species are predominant (about 50%). The third type is found in sites