

A survey of the saproxylic beetles (Coleoptera) in Dividalen, Troms county, northern Norway

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The saproxylic beetle fauna in Dividalen (68.5-69°N), a tributary valley to Målselvdalen in the county Troms, has been investigated in the period 1993-1999 with nine different collecting methods. Dividalen is in the northern boreal forest region and has a mixture of pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) and different species of hardwoods, among which birch (*Betula pubescens* Ehr.) dominates. The collected material comprises more than 22.800 individuals (larvae, pupae and imagines) of 189 obligatorily saproxylic species. This constitutes more than 75% of all the saproxylic species found in the county. Twenty-four of the obligatorily saproxylic species found in Dividalen are redlisted in Norway. Fourteen species are reported for the first time from Troms county. A survey of the saproxylic beetles occurring in the inner parts of Troms gives the following grouping: a) northern species, i.e. absent in South Norway, b) ubiquitous species, i.e. species distributed throughout Norway and c) species with a gap in their distributions between South/Central Norway and Troms. Since a number of plant and animal species have a real break in their distribution between South/Central Norway and Troms (Finnmark), it is possible that several saproxylic species show the same pattern. We argue that the topography between Nordland county and Sweden gives a combination of factors which might contribute to these possible breaks.

Key words: Saproxylic beetles, Coleoptera, biogeography, northern Norway

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