

Ground Beetles (Coleoptera: Carabidae) in Two Biosphere Reserves in the Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria

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Abstract: The present study is a part of a project with the main objective to provide a basis for long-term monitoring of biodiversity in two biosphere reserves of the Western Rhodope Mts: Mantaritsa and Kupena. So far, ground beetles from these areas have only been known from scarce records. During the study, a total of 59 ground beetle species were identified. Carabidae assemblages from habitats, typical for both reserves, were compared. Over 60% of the identified species were common for the studied reserves. However, there are species that occur only in particular habitats and are representative of them. The faunal qualitative and quantitative similarities, the dominance and zoogeographic structure, the spectrum of life forms and the species diversity of the assemblages were analysed. The results showed characteristic ground beetle assemblages in the studied areas. The conservation value of these habitats is discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Carabidae, Palearctic, Bulgaria, biodiversity, conservation, monitoring