

A study of drift of aquatic invertebrates in Nepryadva River

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Invertebrate drift is downstream propagation of benthic invertebrates (those which live on river bottom) when the animals are carried by water flow.

The **aim** of this study was to describe invertebrate drift in Nepryadva River.

Study goals included:

- to study biological diversity of macrozoobenthos and drifting invertebrates;
- to estimate the relative share of drifting species;
- to identify the time periods of active drift;
- to evaluate drifting propensity across several representative groups of macrozoobenthos;
- to find out how drift influences the results of bioindication.

Some bioindicators species of sampling taxons

Gastropoda



Odonata



Trichoptera



Oligochaeta



Hemiptera



Ephemeroptera



Conclusions:

- Among the 56 macrozoobenthos species identified in the study area, 32 were able to drift.
- Drift propensity can be viewed as an individual adaptation of particular species. However, the drift propensity of some species within a given family cannot be used as the basis to derive conclusions about the drift propensity of the other species within the given family.
- Invertebrate drift activity is not constant and has pronounced daily variations.
- Nighttime is the period of the most active drift. There were several groups of invertebrate animals which actively drifted in the daytime.
- Invertebrate drift influenced the results of bioindication, consistently lowering the saprobic index value. The samples for bioindication should be harvested in the periods of minimal drift activity.

Time intervals of zoobenthos drift
(Number of drifting specimen / m³)

