

Biomonitoring of an urban stream (Ova Stream, Ankara, Turkey) using the Belgian Biotic Index

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ABSTRACT

1. The purpose of this study is to compare the water quality of the Ova Stream, an urban stream and its tributaries in May 1991, 1992 with that of 2008, by using benthic macroinvertebrates and some chemical variables.
2. Benthic macroinvertebrate and water samples were taken from four sites along the stream (from upstream to downstream).
3. Belgian Biotic Index was used to assess the water quality.
4. It is observed that the pollution intolerant groups were replaced by tolerant groups over a period of 16 years. Ephemeropterans were disappeared or reduced in number as the result of increasing pollution. *Eristalis tenax*, which is an indicator of polluted waters, was recorded for the first time in this stream in the site 18 in 2008.

KEY WORDS: Belgian Biotic Index, benthic macroinvertebrates, biomonitoring, urban stream, water quality.