



## **Quantitative Comparison of the Abundance of Insects between Ecological and Conventional Farms in the Region of Tirana, Albania**

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study is a comparison of the abundance of insect fauna between two farms in the region of Tirana (Fushë-Preza), on lots with similar abiotic conditions: one of them is managed ecologically, while the other one is managed conventionally. We intend to see how much are the number and the growth rate of insect populations affected by the presence of insecticides. During 12 months (October 2007-October 2008) we collected insects (following prescribed procedures), and identified them according to genus or family. This way we were able to determine 1491 individuals, from which 1280 (85.84%) in the ecological farm, and only 211 (14.16%) in the conventional one. By analyzing different species of insect fauna, it appears that more carabids (*Carabidae*, *Coleoptera*) and aphids (*Aphididae*, *Homoptera*) were found in ecological farm. That indicates to the fact that they have better living conditions in ecological farm. We observed that during the spring-summer period, the populations of all insects follow an exponential growth law, where the populations of predators grow faster than those of the prey. The populations of insects found in the ecological farm are several times larger than those found in the conventional one.

**Key words:** *insect fauna, conventional farm, ecological farm, Coleoptera, Homoptera, PPP.*

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