

Soil Ecology

ABOUT SOIL ECOLOGY

Life on Earth relies on life in earth! The soil, perhaps more than the canopy of tropical forests, represents one of the last great unknowns, so far as its functioning as well as the role and diversity of organisms living in it is concerned.

Although soil science is originating from the late 18th century, much of the progress in soil ecology has been made recently.

Over the last three decades soil processes were opened up for scientific inquiry, getting away from the simplistic approaches of the „black box“ that prevailed in much of the 20th century. Great methodological advances were achieved that allow deep insight into the cryptic habitat soil.

The GfÖ Specialist Group Soil Ecology was funded in 2002. Our aims are to link researchers working in various fields of soil ecology in order to significantly enhance the understanding in soil functioning and sustainability.

MEMBERS

- √ About 30 members
- √ Biologists, soil ecologists, soil scientists, and others

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

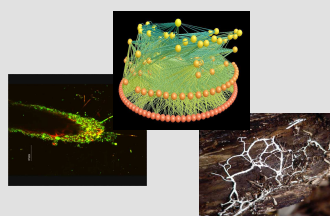
- √ Symposia and workshops on basic and applied topics

Gesellschaft für Ökologie

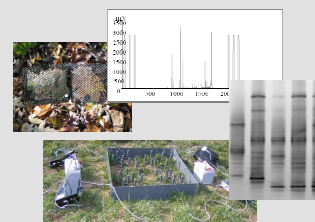
Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland



Organisms



Function



Methods

Picture courtesy: U. Brose, J. Eisenback, W. Foissner, E. Juschke, G. Knaphus, S. Hopkin, M. Maraun, U. Zunke

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- √ International Workshop 2006
Upscaling. Soil organisms and soil ecological processes up to the landscape scale
Together with the Soil Biology and Soil Ecology Group (DBG)
- √ Workshop 2009
Biodiversity in soil – ecosystem function and services
- √ GfÖ Annual Conference 2009, Symposium
Darkness visible – molecular ecology going underground
- √ Scientific exchange with the German Soil Science Society (DBG), in particular the Commission III (Soil Biology and Soil Ecology)

<http://www.gfoe.org/gfoe-specialist-groups/soil-ecology.html>