Dynamics around syrphids in the French Natural Reserves

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Abstract

The first studies on Syrphids in French nature reserves began in 2005. It was in Haute-Savoie, thanks to Jean-Pierre and Véronique Sarthou, Emmanuel Castella and Martin Speight. The Stn (Syrph-the-net) method were deployed there and results were appreciated by French Nature reserves and Wildlife trusts. They have organized and initiated themselves a training course to popularize StN in France. A three-year training cycle is held since 2009, beginning with an introductory course teaching how to set up Malaise traps and deploy the StN methodology on a site. In year 2, another week is an improvement to the identification of syrphids and year 3 course is for processing the data. Since 2009, five training courses have been organized, involving 65 people and giving rise to around 100 StN studies, in different types of habitats (woodlands, peatlands, wetlands, grasslands, urban green areas...).

The StN method consists of a comparison between an observed syrphids community (with Malaise traps and complementary net catching) and a predicted community (developed from a life habits' database). This comparison provides information on which parts of the macrohabitat are performing well and which are not. A methodological guide was published in 2020 (Vanappelghem C. et al.).

This national syrphids dynamic has been reflected in at least 3 regional programmes: "Jura's peatlands LIFE" (2015-2021) has used syrphids as indicator of biodiversity maintenance potential of habitats to restore, the "Sapoll" (Save the pollinisators)' cross-border program (France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen, 2019-2029) has made it possible to initiate a broader knowledge dynamic on syrphids in the Haut de France (regional catalogue, training courses...) and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté syrphids' catalogue, published in 2022, is going to propose a first syrphids regional red list.

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