

ABUNDANCE OF MESOFAUNA ON MANGO (*MANGIFERA INDICA* L.) ECOSYSTEM IN BENGALURU, KARNATAKA, INDIA

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Mesofauna are important biotic components of the soil ecosystem. An investigation was carried out on the abundance of mesofauna in mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) ecosystems from June 2015 to May 2016. Soil and litter samples were drawn and mesofauna were extracted at fortnightly intervals. Results indicated that higher abundance of other invertebrates and Cryptostigmata were observed in litter and soil samples. Significant differences in abundance of mesofauna in mango litter and soil were observed among the intervals. The population was significantly higher in June IF (first fortnight) at 9.87/100 g litter and was on par with September IF (8.53/100 g), July IF (8.40/100 g), and June IIF (second fortnight) at 7.40/100 g. The least significant population was documented in January IIF and March IIF (0.60/100 g). Among the mesofauna at peak activity stage, i.e., June IF, Collembola population was significantly higher but was on par with Cryptostigmata and other invertebrates in litter samples. However, in soil samples the population was significantly higher in June IIF (12.27/400 g) followed by July IF (11.73/400 g), and December IF (10.27/400 g). Significantly less population was recorded in January IIF (0.13/400 g). Among the mesofauna at peak activity stage, i.e., June IIF, Collembola population was significantly higher followed by Mesostigmata, Cryptostigmata, other invertebrates, and other Acari. Mango ecosystem harbored more of total mesofauna in soil samples compared to litter samples.

Keywords: abundance, *Mangifera indica* L., mesofauna, soil, litter