

# Stoneflies (Plecoptera) in the rivers of the Pechora Basin flowing from the Timan Ridge and the Urals, Russia

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Results of the long-term (1980-1999) research carried out by the author in the Pechora tributaries are presented. 33 Plecoptera species from 19 genera and 6 families were recorded in the tributaries flowing from the Timan Ridge and the Urals. More than half of species (17) were widely distributed European species; 10 were Palearctic species and 6 Holarctic species. The highest densities of Plecoptera were observed in the benthos when the new generation appeared at the end July and in August. Maximum biomass was in April and May. In June and July the proportion of Plecoptera in the benthos was low. Plecoptera were most abundant in cold years with high floods, when *Capnia pygmaea* (Zetterstedt, 1840) dominated. In warmer years low numbers and biomass of Plecoptera was observed. In the studied rivers, seven fish species (primarily grayling and young salmon) feed on Plecoptera. 22 plecopteran species were recorded in fish stomachs. Plecoptera were consumed by young salmon and grayling during summer, but also served as a main element in fish diet in winter when the rivers were covered with ice.

Key words: stoneflies, zoogeography, Pechora Basin, benthos, fish.

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