

SUMMARY

The heath was sampled for ants, height above sea level, soil moisture and organic matter, soil temperature and vegetation cover.

The particular features of the habitat of each species of ant and of the ant-free areas are described. The variables measured were highly correlated and the data was further analysed by principle component methods.

Various influences emerged, notably that ants are absent from areas that can probably be characterized as relatively infertile and that, though dry, are cool in early summer; that two species of *Lasius* differ in relation to water supply; and that the unrelated *L. alienus* and *Tetramorium caespitum* co-exist in dry heath with only a tendency to differential environmental frequencies.

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