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Researches on red snow “Akashibo” in the Ozegahara mire Central Japan: occurrence of invertebrates in red snow “Akashibo”

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Abstract

Various invertebrates, nematodes, oligochaetes, harpacticoids, tardigrades, cladocerans, mites, larvae of dipteran insects (tipulids, ceratopogonids and chironomids), appeared internivean and supranivean in Akashibo snow, a kind of red snow in the Ozegahara Mire, an extensive marshland in Central Japan (altitude 1400 m, area 7.6 km^2). Densities of total animals were 2.4-3.6×10^4 ind m^{-2} in internivean and 0.3-2.2×10^3 ind m^{-2} on supranivean. These invertebrates seemed to migrate up from the peat surface into snow due to a decline of decrease in oxygen concentrations at subnivean environments and in/on snow during the development of Akashibo. The food web on Akashibo snow is discussed from the viewpoint of snow ecology.

Key Words: red snow, Ozegahara, mire, Akashibo, Harpactioida, invertebrate

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