A comparative study of the benthic populations in weir ponds draining watersheds of the Femow Experimental Forest, Parsons, West Virginia.

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United States Forest Service Northeast Forest Experiment Station

Dedicated to my Mom,

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Patricia Anne Brittingham May 2, 1943 to July 22, 1989

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Philippians 4:13; "^I can do all things through Christ whichstrengtheneth me." To God be the glory!

ABSTRACT

A study of the benthos of weir ponds draining watersheds of the Femow Experimental Forest (FEF) was conducted in 1994-1995. The objectives of this study were: (1) to relate differences in weir pond faunas to watershed treatments on the FEF, and (2) to compare current weir pond faunas to invertebrates but greater taxa richness than in 1994-1995. Total density varied among weir pond and between studies with numbers in the 1971- 1972 study ranging from 26,168 to 79,259 individuals collected, while individuals collected. Mean density among weir ponds in 1994-1995 was with most of the differences between weir ponds of forested and deforested watersheds. The family Chironomidae was the most abundant group in all four weir ponds in 1971-1972. In the 1994-1995, study the family Chironomidae was only most abundant in weir ponds 3 and 4. Zooplankton populations were very high in the 1994-1995 study, which accounted for 58 percent and 66 percent of the total density for weir ponds ¹ and 6. those described in 1973 by Steve Harris. In 1971-1972, there were fewer not significantly different. In 1971-1972, the weir ponds differed greatly numbers in the 1994-1995 study ranged from 72,779 to 103,743

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Benthic populations in forested stream ecosystems can be important indicators of alteration of the natural environment. Macroinvertebrate communities are frequently used in the evaluation of aquatic ecosystems because they reflect changes in the environment that are not otherwise obvious.

This study will evaluate the effects of watershed alteration on the benthos of weir ponds draining small central Appalachian streams at the Femow Experimental Forest. These watersheds have been managed differently with regard to forest harvest and the use of pesticides and herbicides. The management of agricultural land can greatly influence the composition and magnitude of contaminants in agricultural runoff (Leonard 1988). Alterations of the forest adjacent to the streams can be considered populations are affected. The effects of temperature, chemical and physical variables will also be considered in the influence of these invertebrate populations. Since these weir ponds are located at the base of each watershed, the chemical substances leaving these watersheds can be related to the effect on benthic populations. The productivity of aquatic invertebrates in agricultural watersheds has been shown to be affected directly by the toxicity of contaminants, particularly pesticides and pollution if the natural fluctuation in nutrients and invertebrates

can also be affected indirectly by changes in food resources and habitat caused by increased concentrations of suspended sediment, nutrients, pesticides and herbicides in aquatic ecosystems (Kettle et al. 1987). herbicides in surface and groundwater runoff (Thomson 1987). Productivity

Harris (1973) conducted a study of the fauna of weir ponds at the Femow Experimental Forest in 1971-1972. His conclusions include:

1. Forest practices on watersheds influenced the water quality of the weir ponds in terms of temperature, oxygen, pH, and specific conductance.

2. Populations of benthic fauna differed greatly between weir ponds of forested and deforested watersheds. The largest population was in weir pond 4 (control watershed), and the lowest was in weir pond ¹ (fertilized watershed).

3. Temperature and substrate type were predominately responsible for benthic distribution.

4. Temperature was most influential in seasonal fluctuations of benthos.

5. Amount of detritus played an important role in abundance of benthic populations.

The objectives of this study were: (1) to relate differences in weir pond faunas to watershed treatments on the Femow Experimental Forest, and (2) to compare current fauna to that described by Harris (1973).

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

combination of standing and flowing waters, in that the weirs are a maninvertebrates are a composite of the two situations. Fauna of these ponds performed on the Femow Experimental Forest and provide a way to study the effects of watershed management. The weir ponds under study are unique bodies of water. They are a made deepening and widening of the stream channel. Within these "pools" are presumed to be sensitive to different forestry practices that are

Effects of deforestation and associated road building on the aquatic environment include an increase in sediment, increased stream flow, and an increase in stream temperature (Huttunen 1992). Burns (1972) found but the dipteran populations increased. The removal of forest cover near a stream results in increased stream temperature, and as a result influences the entire stream ecosystem. Survival, reproduction, and behavior of aquatic macroinvertebrates are influenced by temperature (Sallenave 1991). Temperature determines those aquatic taxa present, controls spawning and hatching, and acts in combination with other water quality constituents in the aquatic environment. that benthic populations greatly decreased after extensive logging practices,

Experimental ponds have been used to determine the impact of environmental disturbances on aquatic ecosystems. Recently they have been used as a test system for environmental studies on pesticides and herbicides (Christman 1993). Since benthic macroinvertebrates are important components of aquatic ecosystems, they are one of the biological components utilized in these tests. Although these benthic organisms have been studied extensively, information is still lacking about the life history and ecology of many species, including many of the aquatic insects that inhabit these experimental ponds (Christman 1993). As a result, studies have tried various field approaches to determine environmental impacts using whole ecosystems, upstream-downstream comparisons, before-after comparisons, and experimental ponds.

Several abiotic and biotic factors are important in structuring stream temperature, water chemistry, and competition (Feldman 1992). However, in a lentic environment, such as these ponds, the factors could be different. In these slow-flowing pools, the amount of detritus is higher than that of a feeding groups and amounts of their presumed food were non-significant in the pool habitats (Boulton and Lake 1992). This lack of correlation between benthic detritivore densities and organic matter in the pools may reflect an over abundance of detritus in the pool habitat. This high level of organic macroinvertebrate communities including, at least, organic matter, riffle. Recent studies have found that correlations between detritivorous

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matter in the pools may contribute to deteriorating water quality, which in turn may adversely affect many of the common detritivores (Bolton 1992).

Temperature is a well known factor in determining species presenceabsence and community composition. In a study in the Italian Alps, temperature was found as an important factor in determining community structure of Chironomids (Rossaro 1991). It has been suggested that even a small increase in water temperature (1.0 C) may allow insects to grow faster and emerge earlier as adults, thus increasing their productivity (Sallenave 1991).

Among various aspects of water chemistry, pH has been shown to play a role in influencing the composition and abundance of macroinvertebrate taxa. Field studies have indicated that acid deposition (Feldman 1992). However, the family Chironomidae, as well as other abundant families of Diptera, have been shown to exhibit no significant effects to reduced pH. In a study in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, Chironomidae exhibited similar abundances between treatment groups of pH of 5.8 and 7.1, and was the most abundant family. It appeared that the majority of the chironomid taxa present were not sensitive to acidic conditions and seemed to be resistant, thus showing an increase in relative density under acidic conditions (Feldman 1992). Another study in Sudbury, in temperate areas has reduced abundance, biomass, and diversity

Ontario showed that chironomid taxa tolerated the reduction in pH from 7.4 to 5.9. However, exposure to pH of 4.5 lowered taxa richness and composition of the chironomid community. Acidity appeared to directly alter chironomid composition and reduce species richness by eliminating taxa from the community through increased larval mortality (Griffiths 1992).

CHAPTER III

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

The Femow Experimental Forest is located in Tucker County in the Allegheny Plateau Near Parsons, West Virginia, which is in the northern part of the Monongahela National Forest. Established in 1934, the 1,902 ha experimental forest includes the entire catchment of Elklick Run, which is a fourth tributary of the Black Fork of the Cheat River (Griffith and Perry 1992). The topography is rugged, with elevations ranging from 533 to 1,112 temperature of 9 C. Vegetation on the Femow fits into a mixed hardwood forest type, with dominant vegetation including: red oak *(Quercus rubra],* black cherry *(Prunus serotina),* sugar maple *(Acer saccharum),* rhododendron *(Rhodedendron maximum),* tulip popular *(Liriodendron tulipifera),* dogwood *(Comusflorida),* American beech *(Fagus grandifolia),* and red maple *(Acer rubrum).* mean annual precipitation around 147 cm, with a mean annual m, and slopes of 10 to 60 percent. A rainy, cool climate is typical with

Four weir ponds at the base of experimental watersheds of the steep sided, with depth increasing towards the notch, and with bottoms of bed rock. Fernow Experimental Forest were selected for study (Table 1). Weirs are

Table 1. Description of treatments for the four watersheds

Installed in 1951, this 30.1 ha watershed was clear-cut of all merchantable trees between 1957 to 1958. This watershed was used to evaluate the effects of carelessly logging a watershed on the quality and care to protect soil and water resources. Soil erosion losses from skidroads were estimated at 40 tons/acre during logging, 4 tons/acre the first year eroded soil reached the stream, which greatly increased the sediment concentrations. Annual water yields were increased 5.1 inches in 1958 and returned to normal within 5 years after logging. Average growing season maximum temperatures were temporarily increased 8 F, a result of the watershed resulted in a much faster recovery from this drastic treatment than expected (Kochenderfer 1995). In 1971, the Forest Service used this watershed for a study on the effects of nitrogen fertilization. The Forest Service applied 500 pounds per acre of urea to the watershed. In 1986 and in 1992 this watershed was used for a pesticide study. Dimilin was aerially applied at a concentration of 2 oz. formulation per acre. quantity of water draining from it. Skidroads were loggers choice, with no after logging, and 0.1 tons/acre the second year after logging. Much of this removal of the trees from the viparian zone. Rapid revegetation of this

Trees on this watershed (installed in 1951) were first harvested in 1958 by intensive selection of trees larger than 5.0 inches diameter breast height (DBH). The watershed also received light partial cuts in 1963 and 1968. Then in 1969 the entire watershed (34.3 ha) was clear-cut down to 1-inch DBH except for a 7.4 acre buffer strip of uncut trees left along the stream channel. In 1972 the 7.4 acre buffer strip was clear-cut. Logging roads were carefully layed out to provide efficient harvesting of forest products without harming other resources (Adams et al. 1994). The the stream water. This treatment had only minor effects on stream water chemistry. Water yields increased 10 inches the first year, then decreased rapidly as the watershed quickly became revegetated. Beginning in 1989, the watershed has been used for an artificial acidification study. Ammonium sulfate fertilizer is being aerially applied three times a year to amount of sulfur and nitrogen that normally deposits on the watershed from atmospheric deposition (Adams et al. 1994). primary purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of clearcutting on the watershed at the rate of 150 pounds/acre/year. This doubles the

Watershed 4

Installed in 1951, this 38.7 ha site has been used as an untreated control to compare with other watersheds that have been treated.

Installed in 1956, this 22.3 ha site was clear-cut of its lower half in upper half was clear-cut and maintained barren until 1969 (Adams et al. 1994). The objective of this study was to determine what portion of the watershed yielded the most water and to quantify the amount of water that could be produced when a watershed was maintained completely devoid of vegetation. Maximum annual water yield increases averaged almost 6 inches after the lower half was deforested and rose to over 10 inches after complete deforestation. In 1973, the entire watershed was planted with Norway spruce *{Picea abies).* In both 1975 and 1980, the watershed was aerially applied with 2,4,5-T and Roundup herbicides to release the spruce from competing hardwoods. This part of the study was designed to determine how converting a hardwood covered watershed to a coniferous cover affects the quality and quantity of water draining from it. Streamflow is expected to decrease as the spruce grow, eventually becoming at least 25 percent less than the streamflow measured when the watershed was occupied with a hardwood cover (Kochenderfer 1995). 1964 and maintained barren with herbicides until 1969. In 1967, the

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CHAPTER IV

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Sampling

Monthly collections were made from October 1994 to October 1995. Two quantitative bottom fauna samples were randomly taken from each weir pond using a staff-mounted Ekman dredge (24 x 24 cm). A 10 foot jonboat was used for sampling the weir ponds in order not to disturb the sites. Weir ponds were marked off in ¹ meter squares with each square given a locations. Samples were washed down in a bucket with a 250 micron mesh bottom, and preserved in alcohol. number to be used in a table of random numbers for selecting sampling

In the laboratory, detritus and samples were washed through a nested sieve series (10, ¹ and 0.25 mm). The top sieve retaining "very course particulate organic matter" or VPOM, the middle sieve retaining were preserved in 100 percent ethanol and identified to genus when possible using a 3X Baush and Lomb dissecting microscope. When keying dipteran larvae, it was necessary to clear the body using a KOH solution, then placing them under a compound microscope for identification of mouth and body parts. Most of the FPOM samples were subsampled due were placed in the CPOM sieve for tabulation. Macroinvertebrates in CPOM "fine particulate organic matter" or FPOM. Organisms found in the VPOM "course particulate organic matter" or CPOM and the bottom sieve retaining

to the large amount of detritus present. FPOM was placed in a partitioned container, agitated, and the contents of ¹ section pipetted out and if necessary resubsampled. Subsamples of FPOM ranged from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1/16, depending on the number of animals and/or amount of sediment in the FPOM. Samples were picked under a dissecting microscope a spoonful at a time. Macroinvertebrates were then preserved in 100 percent ethanol and placed in labeled vials.

The VPOM, CPOM and FPOM sample remaining after removal of macroinvertebrates were dried at 60 C to a constant mass in the drying oven for a minimum of 48 hours. Dried samples were weighed and placed reweighed to determine the ash-free dry weight of detritus associated with each sample. in a muffle furnace at 550 C for a 2-3 hour period. Samples were then

Habitat parameters

At each sample location, depth was measured using a meter stick. Water temperature was continuously recorded by electronic thermographs collected from the streams immediately upstream of the weir ponds. They Parsons, West Virginia. Water samples were analyzed for pH, conductivity, alkalinity, Ca, Na, K, Mg, Cl, $NO₃$ -N, $NH₃$ -N, and $SO₄$. were analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service Timber and Watershed Laboratory, (HOBO temps) placed in each weir pond. Weekly water samples were

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CHAPTER V

RESULTS

HABITAT

Temperature

Daily mean temperatures were calculated from the continuous temperature record for each weir pond. Temperatures were similar among weir ponds during the study with WS 3 having the highest number of annual degree days (ADD) of 3,666, and WS 6 having the lowest ADD of 3,262 (Fig. 1). In the Harris 1971-1972 study, temperature was taken at the substrate surface using the Pallman method of sucrose inversion. ^A mean temperature was taken for a two week period. Readings were taken from April to October of 1972 (Fig. 2). Temperatures in 1971-1972 for WS 6 had the highest temperature and was similar to WS 3 which was warmer than WS 4 and WS 1. However, in 1994-1995 WS 1, 4 and 6 had similar temperatures but WS 3 had a slightly higher temperature.

Water quality

Water quality parameters varied among the weir ponds during the study. The pH values were greater in WS ¹ (6.2) with WS 4 and WS 6 having the same mean pH value of 5.9 (Table 2). WS 3 had the lowest pH started in 1989. WS ¹ had the highest levels of pH, conductivity, alkalinity, calcium, magnesium, Na, and SO₄. WS 6 had the lowest levels of value (5.7) which could be due to the fact that the acidification study was Figure 1. Mean daily temperatures recorded by electronic thermographs (HOBO temps.) at selected sites. (WS 1 = watershed 1, WS 3 = watershed 3, WS 4 = watershed 4 (control), WS $6 =$ watershed 6). (ADD = annual degree days).

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Figure 2. Monthly temperature means for common months for the two studies. The 1971-1972 temperatures measured by sucrose method from April 1972 to October 1972. The 1994-1995 temperatures measured by HOBO temps.

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conductivity, Ca, Mg, $NO₃$ and Cl. In the Harris 1971-1972 study, WS 1 had the highest level in all of the nine parameters collected, which in comparison to the 1994-1995 study shows that WS ¹ has the highest level in seven of those nine parameters. Among weir ponds, alkalinity values in the 1971-1972 study were higher than those of the 1994-1995 study.

Watershed and weir pond parameters

Physical features of the four watersheds in the study are shown in Table 3. Watershed area (ha) ranged from 22 to 39 ha, with similar elevation and slope. Predominant foliage varied from oaks, yellow popular, maples and white ash except for WS 6 which was completely planted with norway spruce. Stand age of the watersheds ranged from 22 to 37 years old, except for WS 4 (control) which was over 90 years old. The area $(m²)$ of the weir ponds ranged from 25 to 42 m^2 , with WS 6 deeper than the others. Bottom profiles of the four weir ponds show a relationship of depth to distance from the crest of the weir (Fig. 3). The farther from the weir crest, the shallower the depth. Water shed 6 had the greatest minimum depth of about 110 cm with WS 4 having the lowest minimum depth of 10 cm.

PARTICULATE ORGANIC MATTER

Sample location

Total particulate organic matter (TPOM, AFDM/m²) varied with depth and distance from the crest of the weir. TPOM increased with depth in all

CD $\bm{\omega}$ O GO es of the fou Table 3. Physical featu **,0J** \mathfrak{a} sical features of the four watersheds on Fernow Experimental Fore $\mathbf \omega$ **6** GO**o** "co $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ ■g**>** menta **•£** <L> X LXl **o**

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Smd **no 'o Io** GO spruce \mathbf{S} ب ್ದಾ **>>** OSco 0) **>» OSg° Deforested** Control Deformation **oom sop** 1.3 **o (N r-' cn cn un co 0** Ξ ∞ **Z** CO*' maple OS**O o jjG**747 **c3 003** GO **a\ m o o CO (N O O 1 . m O** ■O **a o** 4 **Si** (D .05 $\bm{\omega}$ "go**G co_E**G $\overline{\mathbf{c}}$ **3 3 3 5 10 1111 O CX<D «* —** GO **o3O** CO <DC3 **o oom O** 34 **o ^o ''G O Tt (N** 42 Am "O <D *a* 3 **>» OS -J** $\frac{3}{2}$ OS **"5 ^oO. Q. O,** 03*r—* **■C** $\bm{\sigma}$ **2 c2 . E 5o OS -G ^P ^G E0** S **uga O** $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ **O** $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$ \overline{D} $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ **C4** \mathbf{e} \equiv **D \o** liage **,o** G **o co exo** GO **a >>** n ant CO**c<d**age pond
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Figure 3. Bottom profiles of each weir pond for the 1994-1995 study. Points are from individual Ekman sampling locations.

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four weir ponds (Fig. 4). TPOM decreased with distance from the crest of the weir ponds (Fig. 5). One way ANOVA showed that pond 6 was significantly deeper than the other ponds (Table 4). significant effect of pond on sampling distance (distance from crest of weir). There was no effect of the sample date on either depth or distance from the weir crest. This indicates that there was no locational bias among ponds or among samples. There was no

Seasonal variation

Mean TPOM of the four weir ponds over the course of the study did seem to show some seasonal trends (Fig. 6a-d). The combined TPOM for the four weir ponds was greatest in the fall and lowest in the spring. Seasonal variation of the three components of TPOM (VPOM, CPOM and FPOM) are illustrated in Figure 6. The FPOM for the combined weir ponds was $\,$ significantly higher in fall than in other seasons (p<0.05). Seasonal organic particulate matter for the individual weir ponds is illustrated in Figure 7.

Comparison among watershed

Mean particulate organic matter varied among sites (Fig. 8a-d). Weir pond 4 had significantly more CPOM and FPOM than the other weir ponds. A Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) was used to determine the pairwise comparisons for the organic matter data. Weir pond ¹ had significantly more VPOM than pond 4. TPOM did not differ significantly Figure 4. Depth of weir pond in relation to total organic matter. (POM = particulate organic matter).

Figure 5. Distance from weir crest in relation to total particulate organic matter.

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Dependent Variable	Error df	Pond		Date		Depth	
		df	\mathbf{P}	df	$\mathbf P$	df	P
Depth	88	3	0.01	12	0.14	na	na
Distance	88	3	0.46	12	0.62	na	na
FPOM	84	3	0.01	12	0.01	$\mathbf{1}$	0.05
CPOM	84	3	0.01	12	0.01	1	0.01
VPOM	87	3	0.01	12	0.06	1	-0.01
Total POM	81	3	0.01	12	< 0.05	1	0.01
Density	87	3	0.10	12	0.34	1	0.01
Richness	87	3	0.01	12	0.01	1	0.01

Table 4. One-way analysis of covariance on the four weir ponds (1994- 1995). Depth is a covariate.

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- Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal total POM for the combined weir ponds for the 1994-1995 study. Figure 6. a.
	- b. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal VPOM (very course particulate organic matter) for the combined weir ponds for the 1994-1995 study.

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- c. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal CPOM (course particulate organic matter) for the combined weir ponds for the 1994-1995 study.
- d. Mean (± ¹ SE) seasonal FPOM (fine particulate organic matter) for the combined weir ponds for the 1994-1995 study.

Figure 7. Mean (\pm 1 SE) seasonal POM (particulate organic matter) for each weir pond for the 1994-1995 study.

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- Figure 8. Mean $(\pm 1$ SE) POM for each weir pond. A Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) was used to determine the pairwise comparisons for the organic matter data.
	- a. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ FPOM (fine particulate matter) for each weir pond.
	- b. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ CPOM (course particulate matter) for each weir pond.
	- c. Mean $(± 1 SE) VPOM$ (very course particulate matter) for each weir pond.
	- d. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ TPOM (total particulate matter) for each weir pond.

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among the weir ponds.

An ANOVA comparison on the POM data for the weir ponds displayed similar findings to the Tukey's HSD test (Table 4). All components of the organic matter data (TPOM, VPOM, CPOM and FPOM) were significantly VPOM were significantly different when compared by date of sample. This implies that the particulate organic matter varied from sample to sample for each weir pond, but overall the total organic matter seemed to be similar. different when compared by pond $(p < 0.01)$. All components except for

MACROINVERTEBRATE ABUNDANCE

1994-1995 and 1971-1972 study

The taxonomic composition for the 1994-1995 study is shown in Table 5a-d. Weir pond 3 had the highest mean density with 7,980 individuals, and weir pond 6 had the lowest mean density with 5,598 individuals. Dipterans accounted for most of the invertebrates in weir pond 3 (71%) and weir pond 4 (69%). Ostracods dominated in weir pond ¹ (58%) and weir pond 6 (66%), with dipteran populations second in importance with 32 percent and 15 percent in ponds ¹ and 6. Mean density for the four weir ponds varied from 1,000 per m² to 20,000 per m² (Fig. 9a,b). Analysis of covariance revealed no significant difference among ponds or among dates in mean density (Table 4, Fig. 10).

The taxonomic composition for the 1971-1972 study by Steve Harris is shown in Table 6a-d. Weir pond 4 had the highest mean density with

Table 5a. Taxon list of weir pond ¹ on the FEF.

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Table 5«. Continued

Table 5b. Taxon list of wair pond 3 on the FEF.

Table 5b.Continued

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Table 5c. Taxon list of weir pond 4 on the FEF.

Table 5c.Continued

Tabla 5d. Taxon list of weir pond 6 on the FEF.

Table 5d.Continued

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- Mean $(± 1 SE)$ density for each weir pond for the 1994-1995 study. Figure 9. a.
	- b. Mean density for each weir pond for the 1971- 1972 study. (No error bars since only one set of densities for each weir pond).

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- Mean $(± 1 SE)$ macroinvertebrate density for each weir pond for the 1994-1995 study, (a HSD was used for the pairwise comparisons). Figure 10. a.
	- b. Mean macroinvertebrate density for each weir since only one set of densities for each weir pond for the 1971-1972 study. (No error bars pond).

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Table 6a. Taxon fist of weir pond 1 on the FEF

Tabic 6a. Continued

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Table 8b. Taxon list of weir pond 3 on the FEF

Tabic 6b. Continued

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Table 6c. Taxon list of weir pond ⁴ on the FEF **44**

Tabic 6c. Continued

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Table 6d. Taxon list of weir pond ⁸ on the FEF **46**

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Tabic 6d. Continued

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7,205 individuals, with weir pond ¹ having the lowest mean density with 2,379 individuals (Fig. 10a,b). Dipteran populations accounted for the largest group of all four ponds with percentages of 71% (WS 1), 75% (WS 3), 65% (WS 4) and 55% (WS 6). Mean density $(\frac{\mu}{m^2})$ for the four weir ponds exhibited an increase from September 1971 to October 1972 (Fig. 9a,b). Weir ponds were cleaned of all sediments in August 1971, which accounts for this increase.

made at the family level in order to compare the two studies at a level that was similar taxonomically (Table 7a-d). The combined taxonomic composition list for the two studies was

Zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) populations were very high in the 1994-1995 study. They accounted for 58 percent and 66 percent of the total density for weir ponds ¹ and 6. These large populations were not present in the 1971-1972 study, however, it is possible that they were present but not recorded. Densities for the two studies are similar when they are compared without the zooplankton data (ostracods & cladocerans) (Fig. 11). Using this corrected density (without zooplankton), mean density of weir pond ¹ and 6 were significantly different (Fig. 12). As stated before, these two weir ponds contained the largest zooplankton populations.

In order to compare the two studies, only the common months were used (October, November, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October) (Fig. 13a,b). When zooplankton was included, mean density in 1994-1995 was greater than mean density in 1971-1972 in weir

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Table 7b, Continued

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Table 7c. Combined taxon list at the family level for the two studies on weir pond 4.

Table 7c. Continued

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Table 7d. Combined taxon list at the family level for the two studies on weir pond 6.

Table 7d. Continued

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Figure 11. Density (#/m²) for the 1994-1995 and 1971-1972 study with zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) included and excluded for each weir pond.

 $-1994-1995$ $- 1971 - 1972$ \rightarrow

Figure 12. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ density for the 1994-1995 study, with and without zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) densities for each weir pond, (oneway ANOVA, $* = p < 0.01$

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- Figure 13. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ macroinvertebrate density for the 1994-1995 and 1971-1972 study among common months (Oct, Nov, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct) (one-way ANOVA, *=p<0.05)
	- a. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ density for the two studies with ostracods and cladocerans for each weir pond..
	- b. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ density for the two studies without ostracods and cladocerans for each weir pond.

ponds ¹ and 3. When zooplankton was excluded, mean density in 1994- 1995 was less than mean density in 1971-1972 in weir pond 6.

Seasonal patterns of mean density varied among study and pond (Fig. 14a,b). The 1994-1995 mean density decreased from fall to summer, and The comparison was made during common months and without zooplankton. In the 1994-1995 study there was no significant difference among seasons (p=0.7), however in the 1971-1972 study fall was significantly lower than the others (p<0.05). The weir ponds were cleaned of all sediments in August 1971, which accounts for this decrease in mean density. the 1971-1972 mean density increased from fall to summer.

A BACI (Before-After/Control-Impact) statistical analysis (Schroeter 1993) was performed on the mean densities of the two studies during common months without the zooplankton data (Fig. 15). The results indicated a significant increase in mean density for weir pond 3 (p<0.05) from 1971-1972 to 1994-1995 (Fig. 16).

MACROINVERTEBRATE TAXA RICHNESS

Total taxa richness in both studies varied among weir ponds (Fig. 17). winter and spring months. In 1994-1995, mean taxa richness for weir pond 6 was significantly lower than WS ¹ and WS 3 (p<0.05). Mean taxa richness was higher during the 1971-1972 study with weir pond 1 having a A similar trend among the studies was a peak in taxa richness during the

- Figure 14. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal density for combined weir ponds for common months, without zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) (HSD was used for pairwise comparisons).
	- a. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal density for 1994-1995 for each weir pond and season.
	- b. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal density for 1971-1972 for each weir pond and season.

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Figure 15. A BACI analysis of the two studies using mean density for common months (zooplankton excluded).

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Figure 16. A BACI analysis interaction plot for mean density for the two studies among weir ponds.

Figure 17. Total taxa richness for the two studies among weir ponds.

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significantly higher diversity (p<0.05) than WS 4 or WS 6 (Fig. 18). Weir ponds 3, 4 and 6 were very similar between studies, with weir pond ¹ significantly higher than the others (p<0.01). Weir pond ¹ was significantly different when compared along common months with zooplankton. However, weir ponds ¹ and 6 were significantly different when comparing the studies along common months without zooplankton (Fig. 19a,b).

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> Across seasons for both studies, taxa richness was significantly lower in summer than the other seasons (p<0.05) (Fig. 20a,b). The comparison studies, fall and summer were significantly similar as were winter and spring. A one-way analysis of covariance comparing taxa richness by pond and date resulted in significant differences among all three parameters (Table 4). A Tukey's HSD test on mean taxa richness for the 1994-1995 study revealed that weir pond ¹ was significantly lower than weir pond ³ and weir pond 6 was significantly lower than weir ponds 3 and 4 (Fig. 21). was made during common months and without zooplankton. For both

> A BACI analysis (Schroeter 1993) on the mean taxa richness for the two studies among common months without zooplankton can be seen in Figure 22. The results indicated a small but significant decrease in taxa richness for weir pond ¹ (p< 0.01) from 1971-1972 to 1994-1995 (Fig. 23).

Figure 18. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ taxa richness for the two studies among weir ponds (HSD was used for pairwise comparisons).

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Figure 19. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ taxa richness for the two studies
among common months (one-way ANOVA, among common months $*=p<0.01$).

- a. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ taxa richness for the two studies among common months with zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans).
- b. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ taxa richness for the two studies among common months without zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans).

Zooplankton included

- Figure 20. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal taxa richness for the two studies for common months among the four weir ponds (without zooplankton) (HSD was used for pairwise comparisons).
	- a. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal taxa richness for 1994-1995 study for each weir pond and season.
	- b. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ seasonal taxa richness for 1971-1972 study for each weir pond and season.

Figure 21. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ taxa richness for the 1994-1995 study among weir ponds (HSD was used for pairwise comparisons).

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Figure 22. A BACI analysis of the two studies using taxa richness for the common months (zooplankton excluded).

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A BACI analysis interaction plot for taxa richness
for the two studies among weir ponds. Figure 23.

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MACROINVERTEBRATE COMPOSITION

In the 1971-1972 study, the family Chironomidae was the most abundant group in all four weir ponds (Fig. 24). However, in the 1994-1995 study, the family Chironomidae was only most abundant in weir ponds 3 and 4. In weir ponds ¹ and 6, ostracod populations were the most abundant taxon. Both ostracod and cladoceran populations (zooplankton) were not present in the 1971-1972 study, but does not mean they were not populations were present in both studies. Zooplankton densities increasing from fall to summer in the 1994-1995 study (Fig. 25). Ostracods had the highest density among season and weir pond with numbers reaching 50,000 per m2. found, they possibly may not have been recorded. However, copepoda

A complete checklist of the taxa recorded in the two studies is shown in Table 8. Three phyla, five classes, twelve orders, forty-one families and 86 genera were represented in the two studies (Table 8).

In the 1971-1972 study 66 taxa were collected, in comparison to 60 taxa collected in the 1994-1995 study (Table 9). Forty-one taxa were unique to the $1971-1972$ study, and 34 taxa were unique to the 1994-1995 study. The group with the greatest diversity was the order Diptera with 33 taxa in 1994-1995, and 32 in 1971-1972. The family Chironomidae had 27 taxa in 1994-1995 and 11 in 1971-1972, with 21 taxon unique to the 1994- 1995 study.
Figure 24. Macroinvertebrate composition of the four weir ponds for the two studies (EPT = Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera).

Figure 25. Mean $(± 1 SE)$ zooplankton density by season and weir pond for the 1994-1995 study.

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Table 8. Taxonomic list for the two studies.

Class Insecta Subclass Apterygota Order Collembola Subclass Pterygota Infraclass Paleoptera Order Ephemeroptera Baetidae Ephemerellidae *Ephemerella Eurylophella* Ephemeridae *Hexagenia Litobrancha* Heptageniidae *Epeorus* Leptophlebiidae *Habrophlebia <Habrophlebiod.es>* Oligoneuriidae *Lachlania* Siphlonuridae *Ameletus* Order Odonata Suborder Anisoptera Aeshnidae *Aeshna* Gomphidae *Hagenius Lanthus* Infraclass Neoptera Division Exopterygota Order Plecoptera Capniidae *Paracapnia* Chloroperlidae *Alloperla Sweltsa* Leuctridae *Leuctra* Nemouridae *Amphinemura Soyedina* Peltoperlidae *Peltoperla* Perlidae *Acroneuria*

Perlodidae *Isogenus Isoperla* Order Hemiptera Corixidae *Sigara* Division Endopterygota Order Trichoptera Superfamily Hydropsychoidea Hydropsychidae *Diplectrona* Polycentropodidae *Polycentropus* Psychomyiidae *Lype Psychomyia* Superfamily Limnephiloidea Brachycentridae *Brachycentrus* Lepidostomatidae *Lepidostoma* Limnephilidae *Pycnopsyche* Phryganeidae *Ptilostomis* Superfamily Rhyacophiloidea Hydroptilidae *Ochrotrichia* Rhyacophilidae *Rhyacophila* Order Lepidoptera Order Coleoptera Order Megaloptera Sialidae *Sialis* Order Diptera Suborder Brachycera Infraorder Cyclorrhapha Ephydridae *Brachydeutera Scatophila* Muscidae Subfamily Hydrelliinae *Hydrellia* Syrphidae

Infraorder Orthorrhapha Empididae Stratiomyidae *Eulalia* Tabanidae *Tabanus* Suborder Nematocera Cecidomyiidae Ceratopogonidae *Atrichopogon Culicoides Palpomyia* Chaoboridae *Chaoborus* Chironomidae Subfamily Chironominae *Chironomus Dicrotendipes Glyptotendipes Micropsectra Microtendipes Paratendipes Polypedilum Tanytarsus Tribelos* Subfamily Orthocladiinae *Brillia Corynoneura Cricotopus Eukiefferiella Heterotrissocladius Hydrobaenus Metriocnemus Orthocladius Parachaetocladius Parametriocnemus Paraphaenocladius Psectrocladius Rheocricotopus Stilocladius Symposiocladius Thienemanniella Trichocladius* Subfamily Prodiamesinae *Prodiamesa* Subfamily Tanypodinae *Pentaneura Procladius Thienemannimyia*

Zavrelimyia Dixidae *Dixa* Psychodidae *Pericoma Psychoda* Tipulidae *Helius Hexatoma Limnophila Limonia Molophilus Ormosia Pseudolimnophila Tipula*

Class Crustacea Subclass Branchiopoda Order Cladocera Subclass Copepoda Order Cyclopoida Subclass Ostracoda

Class Arachnida Subclass Acari

Class Bivalvia Superfamily Sphaeracea Sphaeriidae *Pisidium*

Phylum Annelida Class Oligochaeta

Phylum Nematoda

Table 9. Number of taxa and unique taxa collected for each study.

The family Chironomidae with 31 genera represented overall some of the highest densities for both studies with mean densities up to 2,388 per among chironomids with 2,388 per m², compared to *Chironomus* with 2,297 per m² in 1994-1995. The genus *Chironomus* also represented the highest percent total for both studies with 70 percent to 90 percent of the total collected. Four subfamilies of Chironomidae were present in the two 1994-1995 study (Table 11). The largest subfamily for both studies was **2** However, in 1994-1995, weir pond 6 had Tanypodinae with 621 per m which was 76 percent of the total collected. These four subfamilies represent 49 percent to 78 percent of the total collection for both the 1971 show an increase in the winter and summer collections for the 1994-1995 summer, which might be an effect of sediment cleaning in the weir ponds during August 1971. Chironominae with densities ranging from 135 per m^2 to 4,749 per m^2 . m² (Table 10). In 1971-1972, the genus *Penlaneura* had the highest density studies. However, the subfamily Prodiamesinae was only present in the study (Fig. 27). In 1971-1972, chironomid density increased from fall to 1972 and 1994-1995 study (Fig. 26). Seasonal patterns for chironomid

The top six taxa for the two studies revealed that *Chironomus* was always in the top three except for weir pond 6 in 1994-1995 where ostracod two studies, only common months should be used. When common months are used, and zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) densities omitted, the densities were 66 percent of total (Table 12). However, when comparing the

Table 10. Mean density per m² of the family Chironomidae for common months (Oct, Nov, Mar, Aprl, May, Jun, July, Aug, Sept, Oct) with percentage of total.

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Table 10. Cont.

Table 11. Mean density per m^2 of subfamilies in the family Chironomidae for common months (Oct, Nov, Mar, Aprl, May, Jun, July, Aug, Sept, Oct) with percentage of $\ddot{}$ total.

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Figure 26. Mean chironomid density for the 1994-1995 and 1971-1972 study for each weir pond (with percent of total).

Figure 27. Mean chironomid density for the two studies for common months among weir pond and season.

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Tabic 12. Top six taxa for the two studies in 1994-95 and 1971-72. Percentage oftotal sample is given for each.

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top six taxa change (Table 13). The genus *Chironomus* was still in the top three for each weir pond and study, but in weir pond 6 Copepoda was the most abundant, comprising 37 percent of the total collected.

Using common months with zooplankton densities omitted, a top six families/subfamilies list was made for the two studies (Table 14). Chironominae was the top subfamily for all weir ponds in both studies except for weir pond 6 in the 1994-1995 study. In weir pond 6 for 1994- 1995, Tanypodinae had 38 percent and Copepoda had 37 percent of the total collected, with subfamily Chironominae with 8 percent. All top six family/subfamily taxon for the four weir ponds in 1994-1995 represented 99 percent of the total collected, compared to the 1971-1972 study where they represented 79 percent to 99 percent of the total collected. Orthocladiinae represented 3 percent to 6 percent of the total collected in 1994-1995, but was not present in the 1971-1972 taxon list.

Densities of ephemeropteran, plecopteran and trichopteran individuals accounted for less than 2 percent of the total collected in 1994- 1995 (Fig. 28). The genus *Leuctra* had the highest density with 1,380 per include *Pycnopsyche, Paracapnia, Litobrancha, Peltoperla* and *Ameletus.* In the 1971-1972 study, ephemeropteran, plecopteran and trichopteran densities accounted for less than 12 percent of the total collected. Weir pond ¹ had the highest densities with Baetidae, *<Habrophlebiod.es>, Alloperla, Leuctra, Peltoperla* and *Pycnopsyche* represented. $m²$ in weir pond 3. Some other genera found in the 1994-1995 study

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Table 13. Top six taxa for the two studies in 1994-1995 and 1971-1972 with zooplankton omitted for common months. Percentage of total sample is given for each.

Figure 28. EPT density for the two studies among the four weir ponds (with percent of total).

The fingernail clam *Pisidium* (family Sphaeriidae) had high densities in the 1971-1972 study with numbers up to 4,500 per m^2 (Fig. 29). The clam was present in all weir ponds in 1971-1972. However in 1994-1995, it was only found in very small numbers. In 1994-1995, weir ponds 1, 4 and 6 had *Pisidium* with individual numbers of 28, 66 and 19, respectively.

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Figure 29. *Pisidium* density for the two studies among the four weir ponds.

CHAPTER VI DISCUSSION

Physical parameters

Temperatures were similar among weir ponds during the 1994-1995 study with WS 3 having the highest number of annual degree days (ADD) of 3,666, and WS 6 having the fewest ADD of 3,262. Higher temperatures in WS 3 may be explained by a more southemly aspect than the other three temperature range for the weir ponds is similar to that found in other temperature was taken at the substrate surface for a two week period from April to October 1972. Temperatures were higher in WS 6 because of the lack of tree cover and lower in WS ¹ and 4 due to the tree canopy. account for the lower temperatures possibly due to stratification. The studies (Christman 1993; Holopainen 1992). In the 1971-1972 study, weir ponds. Weir pond 6 is deeper than the other ponds which may

Water quality parameters varied among the weir ponds during the study. In the 1994-1995 study, pH values were greater in WS ¹ (6.2) and lowest in WS 3 (5.7) probably due to an acidification study that was started effect on the nitrogen levels which were highest in the WS 3 weir pond with 7.38 mg/L. In the 1971-1972 study, alkalinity levels were higher than those of the 1994-1995 study. According to Feldman (1992), stream in 1989. Aerial application of ammonium sulfate is applied three times a year to the WS 3 at the rate of 150 pounds/acre/year. This also has an

alkalinity is projected to continue to decrease with continued acid deposition. Decline in stream pH as a result of acid deposition is partially a function of stream alkalinity. Alkalinity will continue to decline if acid deposition continues at its present level or increases (Feldman 1992). Alkalinity levels in the FEF weir ponds were well below the levels found in other ponds in the Northeastern United States (Christman 1993). In his study, pond alkalinity was recorded in the range of 20 to 61 mg/L, in comparison to the FEF weir ponds ranging from 0.39 to 1.8 mg/L. Nitrate much higher than those found in his study, which ranged from 0.03 to 1.8 mg/L. levels in the 1994-1995 study ranged from 0.1 to 7.4 mg/L, which were

Particulate organic matter

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Total particulate organic matter (TPOM) increased with depth and decreased with distance from the crest of the weir in all four ponds. Mean particulate organic matter for the 1994-1995 study varied among sites. As reported in 1971-1972 by Harris, the deforested watersheds (3 and 6) had the lowest amounts of detritus, and the forested watersheds (1 and 4) had the highest. This is also true for the 1994-1995 study. Weir pond 4 had the highest amount of detritus which could be a result of it being the largest watershed in area and also having the oldest stand. Weir pond ¹ had the next highest amount of detritus and is also older in stand age than WS 3 and 6. The smallest watershed, WS 6, is also the youngest which had the

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lowest amount of POM. Also, this watershed was converted to a Norwayspruce stand in 1973, which adds less organic matter to the stream.

Macroinvertebrate abundance and taxa richness

Mean macroinvertebrate density in the 1994-1995 study did not differ among weir ponds. In the 1971-1972 study, mean density was greater in the forested watersheds (1 and 4) and lower in the deforested watersheds (3 and 6). However, in order to compare these two studies, only common months were used (October, November, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October). In comparing the two studies, mean macroinvertebrate density was significantly higher for both WS ¹ and WS 3 in the 1994-1995 study. Seasonal mean density for the 1994-1995 study significantly lower in the fall in the 1971-1972 study. This is due to the fact recolonization effect seems to have taken place, with pond densities taking longer than a season to recover. that the weir ponds were cleaned of all sediments in August of 1971. ^A did not differ among weir ponds. However, seasonal mean density was

Zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) populations were very high in the 1994-1995 study. These large populations were not present in the 1971-1972 study. However, it is possible that they were not recorded. In organisms in the zooplankton community took a much longer time to return after a disturbance (cleaning of weir ponds) than did other aquatic a recolonization study (Wallace et al. 1991), it was determined that

invertebrates. The study found that invertebrate populations returned to pre-disturbance levels within a single year, some within two months. This same finding was present in another study by Christman (1993).

The mean density for the 1994-1995 study with zooplankton data omitted (corrected density) showed that WS ¹ and WS 6 were significantly different from the other weir ponds. This was due to the fact that WS ¹ and 6 had the highest zooplankton densities. When comparing mean densities of the two studies without zooplankton data (ostracods & cladocerans), the highest population of ostracods and the lowest mean density. Cooler pond temperature and deeper water may be the cause of the lower density in WS Norway spruce *(Picea abies).* This change from a hardwood watershed to a coniferous cover might have an affect on the quality and quantity of water draining from it. According to Kochenderfer (1995), streamflow will decrease as the spruce grow, eventually becoming at least 25 percent less than before the change. A study in Canada found a correlation between macroinvertebrate density and type of biome in which the study stream was located (Corkum 1992). Higher densities were present in a deciduous forest biome, and lower densities in a coniferous forest biome. The lower density in the spruce watershed compared to the deciduous watershed may reflect a similar influence of vegetation on pond fauna at a smaller scale. 6. As stated before, WS 6 was cleared of all vegetation and planted with weir ponds are similar except for WS 6. In 1994-1995, WS 6 had the

Results of the BACI (Before-After/Control-Impact) analysis of the two

studies using mean density for common months (zooplankton excluded) suggested that there was a significant increase in mean density for weir **^I** reason for this increase due to many factors involved. However, WS 3 has (1991) suggested that even a small increase in water temperature may allow insects to grow faster and emerge earlier as adults thus increasing their nitrates. Krueger and Waters (1983) found that nitrates were positively associated with invertebrate production in three Minnesota streams. The presence of increased nitrate levels produced a favorable environment for macroinvertebrates which in turn produced a higher-quality food. A study by Sallenave (1991) on agricultural watersheds in Ontario had the same results. the largest weir pond area with a warmer pond temperature. Sallenave productivity. In 1994-1995, weir pond 3 also had the highest levels of pond 3 from 1971-1972 to 1994-1995. It is difficult to determine the

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Taxa richness was higher in the 1971-1972 study than the 1994- 1995 study, even though the weir ponds were cleaned of all sediments in August of 1971. Weir ponds in 1971-1972 had lower macroinvertebrate densities, but higher taxa richness. It is possible that the disturbance of cleaning the weir ponds allowed new and old taxa to recolonize the ponds, pond ¹ had the highest taxa richness and the lowest mean density. Although speculative, the application of fertilizer to WS ¹ in 1971 appeared to have created an environment conducive to a high diversity of genera which resulted in low densities but high taxa richness. In 1971-1972, weir

(Harris 1973). Weir pond ¹ also had the highest levels of nitrates. In the 1994-1995 study, WS 3 had the highest level of nitrates, which also had times/year could possible be the reason for this nitrate increase. higher taxa richness. Application of ammonium sulfate to WS 3 three

The comparison of mean taxa richness for the two studies without zooplankton (ostracods 8s cladocerans) was significantly lower in WS ¹ and 6 for the 1994-1995 study. Zooplankton accounted for 58 percent and 66 percent of the total density for weir ponds ¹ and 6. Weir ponds 3 and 4 were similar for both studies regardless of the exclusion of the zooplankton data for the 1994-1995 study. The BACI analysis indicated similar findings, with weir ponds 1 and 6 decreasing slightly in taxa richness.

Macroinvertebrate composition

The family Chironomidae was the most abundant group in all four weir ponds in 1971-1972. However, in 1994-1995 study, the family Chironomidae was only most abundant in weir ponds 3 and 4. Ostracod populations were the most abundant taxon in weir ponds ¹ and 6. The dominance of the family Chironomidae in the weir ponds is similar to that of other studies (Christman 1993, Wallace et al. 1991, Sallenave 1991, Feldman 1992).

Zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) for the 1994-1995 study was dominated by ostracods with numbers up to $50,000/m^2$. However, in the 1971-1972 study they were not seen, but it is possible that they were not

recorded. Zooplankton densities were highest in weir ponds ¹ and 6, and Ostracods are found in a variety of *^I* environments, but the largest numbers are found in permanent still waters with little or no current typical of deeper water (Locke 1992). Weir pond 6 was the deepest of the weir ponds, and also contained the highest density of ostracods with 66 percent of the total density. Weir pond ¹ was deeper than weir ponds 3 and 4, and had a high density of ostracods with 58 percent of the total density. Holopainen (1992) found that low zooplankton densities occurred in ponds with low pH (<6.0). In the 1994-1995 study, weir ponds 3 and 4 had the lower pH values and the lowest zooplankton omitted from the 1994-1995 study, only weir pond 6 had a significantly lower density in 1994-1995. Although zooplankton had high densities in the 1994-1995 study, when omitted the weir pond densities were similar among studies. were dominated by ostracods. densities. When comparing the two studies with zooplankton densities

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In the 1994-1995, study 60 taxa were collected, in comparison to 66 taxa collected in the 1971-1972 study. Thirty-three taxa were unique to the 1994-1995 study, and 41 taxa were unique to the 1971-1972 study. The family Chironomidae had 27 taxa in 1994-1995 and 11 in 1971-1972, with 21 taxa unique to the 1994-1995 study. The 1971-1972 study only had 5 unique taxa. With difficulty in keying chironomids to genus, it is possible that some chironomids could have been improperly named. In the 1971- 1972 study, the genus *Pentaneura* had the highest density among chironomids with $2,388/m^2$. However, in the 1994-1995 study this genus was not found, but a similar genus *Zavrelimyia'was* identified. These genera are very similar and are found in the same couplet in keys for the subfamily Tanypodinae.

Four subfamilies of Chironomidae were present in the two studies. 1994-1995 weir pond 6 contained the subfamily Tanypodinae which comprised 76 percent of the total collected, and Chironominae comprised 17 percent of the total collected. This shift in subfamily abundance might be explained by the bottom composition of weir pond 6. Sand was found in greater quantity in weir pond 6, and also a high amount of VPOM. Hornbach (1993) found that Tanypodinae and Orthocladiinae densities were **(** significantly related to sediment size, being found more often in areas with supported the highest densities of Tanypodinae and Orthocladiinae. The genus *Procladius,* in the subfamily Tanypodinae, was present in weir pond **!** 6 which represents 36 percent of the total collected. This genus is described as a omnivore with predatory tendencies, which feed on first instar larvae of chironomids and ostracods. As noted before, weir pond 6 density was above 10 percent of the total all other chironomids were lower utilization by larvae. The largest subfamily for both studies was Chironominae. However, in in density. This predator-prey relationship may influence microhabitat had the highest density of ostracods. In both studies, when *Procladius* greater proportions of sand. With sand and high VPOM, weir pond 6

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The Hornbach (1993) study also found that Chironominae are tubethe 1994-1995 study, weir pond 3 had one of the highest amounts of FPOM which also supported the greatest density of Chironominae. The subfamily Orthocladiinae was present in the 1994-1995 study with densities of 3 to 8 percent of the total collected. However, in the 1971-1972 study, Orthocladiinae was only represented in weir pond ¹ with 3 percent of the total collected. As seen in the 1994-1995 study, the majority of the Orthocladiinae density was collected in the winter months (December, during these months due to bad weather and ice. January, February). In the 1971-1972 study, no collections were made builders and were more prevalent in areas where sediments are finer. In

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Other studies have indicated that there is a great deal of temporal and spatial variability in chironomid assemblages. Variation in temperature resulted in differences in life cycle patterns and changes in depth preference study in Austria found that differences in microdistribution have been observed among successive instars of a given chironomid species, and between different species in interstitial sediments (Schmid 1992). Physical factors such as substrate heterogeneity, and particle size composition may influence microhabitat utilization and patch formation by larvae (Schmid 1992). Larval patches not only fluctuated seasonally but with depth, indicating resource segregation between and among species (Schmid 1992). varied with age. Hornbach (1993) found that sediment size was the most important factor in the structure of midge assemblages in a stream. ^A

This diversity of relationships implies that there are complex interactions at the population level, and in turn they may affect both spatial and temporal aspects of community structure.

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CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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- **(1)** Benthic fauna of weir ponds draining watersheds of the Femow Experimental Forest was collected from October 1994 to October 1995.
- **(2)** The objectives of this study were: (a) to relate differences in weir pond faunas to watershed treatments on the FEF, and (b) to compare current weir pond faunas to those described in 1973 by Steve Harris.
- **(3)** Two quantitative bottom fauna samples were randomly taken from each weir pond using a staff-mounted Ekman dredge measuring 24x24 cm.
- (4) Various physical and chemical parameters were also measured including, depth, temperature, water chemistry, and particulate organic matter.
- **(5)** Sixty taxa were identified in the 1994-1995 study, and sixty-six taxa were identified in the 1971-1972 study. Mean density for the 1994- 1995 study varied from $1,000/m^2$ to $20,000/m^2$. Mean density for the 1971-1972 study varied from $500/m^2$ to $17,000/m^2$.
- **(6)** Taxa richness was higher during the 1971-1972 study, even though weir ponds were cleaned of all sediments in August 1971.
- **(7)** The family Chironomidae was the most abundant group in all four weir ponds in the 1971-1972 study. In the 1994-1995 study, Chironomidae was only most abundant in weir ponds 3 and 4. In weir ponds ¹ and 6, ostracod populations were the most abundant taxon.
- **(8) ⁱ** Zooplankton (ostracods & cladocerans) populations were very high in the 1994-1995 study. They accounted for 58 percent and 66 percent of the total density for weir ponds ¹ and 6. These large populations were not present in the 1971-1972 study, however it is possible that they were present but not recorded.
	- **(9)** In the 1994-1995 study, alkalinity levels were lower and nitrate levels higher than the 1971-1972 study.
- (10) Total particulate organic matter increased with depth and decreased with distance from the crest of the weir in all four ponds.
- (11) Mean macroinvertebrate density for the 1994-1995 study among weir ponds showed no significant difference. In the 1971-1972 study, mean density was greater in the forested watersheds (1 and 4) and lower in the deforested watersheds (3 and 6).
- (12) Variation in temperature, depth, substrate heterogeneity, and particle size composition may influence microhabitat utilization and patch formation of the benthic fauna in the weir ponds of the FEF.
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