

RESULTS: Biological Quality of soils

Date:

Land use type:

QBS-ar value:

Class of soil quality:

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Evaluation of classes of soil quality

Presence or absence of highly specialised fauna	Class	Presence or absence of other life forms
Euedaphic groups absent	0	Presence of surface dwellers (epedaphic groups)
	1	Presence of forms from humus and leaf litter layers (emiedaphic groups)
One or two euedaphic groups present	2	QBS-ar \leq 50
	3	QBS-ar $>$ 50
Three or more euedaphic groups present	4	Protura and/or beetles absent and QBS-ar \leq 100
	5	Protura and/or beetles absent and QBS-ar $>$ 100
	6	Protura and/or beetles present and QBS-ar \leq 200
	7	Protura and/or beetles present and QBS-ar $>$ 200

Epedaphic groups: organisms adapted to life on the soil surface; usually animals that neither fly, nor burrow, nor swim. Pigmented and/or patterned bodies, often covered with hairs and scales. Well-developed eyes and appendages (limbs, antennae, etc.). Well-functioning furcula (tail like appendage that, when released, snaps against the substrate), flinging the animal into the air (reason why Collembola are called springtails).

Emiedaphic groups: organisms adapted to life in the superficial layers of soil (leaf litter and humus). Life-forms characterised by a reduction of eyes, appendices, and pigmentation.

Euedaphic groups: organisms well adapted to life in the deep soil layers; unpigmented (white or transparent); flattened and/or elongated bodies, reduced or absent appendages and eyes; furcula not functioning or absent.

Examples of QBS-ar values found for some land-uses

Land use type	QBS-ar
Woodland	150-250
Permanent pasture/meadow	90-180
Lucerne pasture (Medicago sativa)	60-180
Wheatfield	60-100
Cornfield	30-40