

Abstract

This bachelor thesis aims to answer the question that even Darwin asked, and which is still relevant today: which factors influence the occurrence of rare species?

In the first part of this thesis, this question is applied in general to species of all organisms.

First, the term rare species is defined and other general information on the distribution, proportion of rare species in ecosystem and importance of rare species are mentioned. Then biotic and abiotic factors, that influence the occurrence and existence of rare species of all organisms are mentioned. These include, for example, the size of the organism, abiotic environmental conditions, in which the organism is found, etc.

The second part of this thesis is focused on the rarity of protists. First, it is discussed whether rare protists actually exist. Due to their small size, large populations, short generation time and easy dispersal, they are often considered ubiquitous. Factors that could influence the occurrence of protists are discussed next. These factors are for example habitat size, dispersal ability and changes in the environment in which they occur. It is not possible to clearly say why some protists are rare, or even to categorize in general terms what factors are key to the occurrence of rare protists.

Key words: rare species, protist biogeography, factors influencing occurrence of rare protists, endemic protists, flagship species, habitat