

Abstract

The Alps are a well-known glacial refugium, an important biodiversity hotspot and a centre of endemism for many species. This is due to their topological variability and the high heterogeneity of their habitats, which thus provide a home for different species of organisms. In particular, the Eastern Alps represented an important glacial refugium and contributed to the survival of countless different species during the Quaternary climate cycle.

This bachelor thesis is a literature review of mainly zoological publications that focus on the study of glacial refugia of terrestrial gastropods in the Alps. A large part of the thesis is devoted to the reasons for the considerable biodiversity, and especially the endemism, of this region. Another part deals with the postglacial dispersal spread of terrestrial gastropod species from their refugia.

Key words: Alps, refugium, endemism, biodiversity, Quaternary, postglacial spread, molluscs, paleobiology