

Abstract

The characteristic environment along riverbeds forms corridors, which can be used by numerous organisms for their dispersion – stream corridors. Water is a useful medium of transportation, especially for the species with low dispersion abilities, such as annelids, molluscs and several arthropods. The terrestrial animals nearby the water flows are often adapted to the survival in the water. They are able to survive short term inundation, or reproduce very quickly to renew their abundances. However, well documented cases of the species spreading along the rivers are rather rare. Most of them are molluscs species. The banks of the Vltava, Berounka or Sázava rivers are colonized by the snail *Arianta arbustorum*. There is evidence of the spreading of annelids along some European rivers. Such examples, together with the various adaptations to survival of inundation suggest that the stream corridors really work as a spreading device.