

## Abstract

Plant litter creates variously sized layer on soil and provides significant source of nutrients, especially carbon and nitrogen, for the whole ecosystem. Decomposition of plant litter forms the main source of soil organic matter and is an essential part of the global nutrient cycle. It also provides habitat for many organisms living on the boundary of soil. Also, plant litter makes a barrier which the light is unable to penetrate. Terrestrial ecosystems are affected by human activity and are subject to disturbances, including litter raking. Litter raking has been an integral part of forest management for several centuries in the past, significantly affecting the character of vegetation and the soil environment. The aim of this work is to summarize the findings of studies dealing with the effects of litter raking on the interaction between plants and soil. The first part of the paper is devoted to the litter, soil environment and its components, which are connected to the litter and second part of the paper is devoted to the effect of litter raking on the nutrient cycle, acidification, plant diversity and seed germination.