

Review of the Bachelor diploma by Markéta Hermová:

“Indikátory obnovy ekosystémů ovlivněných rozsáhlým a závažným poškozením” /

“Indicators of ecosystem recovery after heavy disturbances”

This diploma focus on the recovery of ecosystems after surface coal mining, with the main stated aim of using certain indicators of such recovery to compare the processes of natural succession and recultivation:

“Porovnání procesu sukcese a procesu rekultivace prostřednictvím inkidátoru hodnoty pH, organického uhlíku v půdě, produkce, pokryvnatosti stromů a diversity je předmětem této práce.” (page 10).

The diploma is very well organized and readable, with clear sections and easy-to-understand tables. The introduction (which in fact should be considered as chapters 1-3, not just 1 – úvod) is interesting and does a good job of explaining why this subject was chosen and background into the problem. At this point I had high hopes for the diploma, which unfortunately were not fulfilled, for reasons I outline below. The following section describing the indicators (chapter 4) comprises the large majority of the diploma, and is also well-written. The author clearly looked at many papers, the majority from international teams and respected journals, and did a good job of describing each indicator. There were many examples from studies around the world showing how various factors influence each of the indicators.

Unfortunately, the next chapter (5. Srovnání rekultivace a spontánní sukcese) is disappointing after such a good beginning. From the stated aim on page 10, this should be the main part of the diploma. The author describes 4 areas where some kind of recultivation has taken place, and in Tables 4-8 lists values of particular indicators for each of these sites. This is interesting; however, there is very little comparison of the indicators, for instance if the differences between recultivated and non-recultivated sites were considered by the scientists as being significant. The author's comments and discussion of each of these tables consist of only a couple of very general sentences. My main impression from this section is that differences in indicators are mainly due to factors that are unique to each site, and that “everything depends on everything else”, which is not a very interesting conclusion.

Again in the Summary, I looked for some discussion of which indicators can function to show how these ecosystems are recovering, and under what circumstances they can or cannot be used. Instead, the author summarized some ideas that can be distilled to “how to recultivate depends on what your goal is” – again this may be interesting, but is not the aim of the diploma. The Conclusions summarize the results for each indicator: basically, the indicators of pH, org C, diversity, and production depend on the particular conditions of each site. This would seem to mean that these are not good indicators. There is no problem to have that be the result of the diploma, but it would need much more detailed reasoning and explanation. Also, why does the author state (in the last sentence of chapter 6): “Jako vhodný parametr k vyhodnocení se nabízí hodnota pH, koncentrace org. C v půdě, diversita druhů a produkce lokality.”?

Finally, there are unfortunately many problems with the references – both citations in the text that are missing in the reference list, and citations in the reference list that I couldn't find in the text. Also, the author needs to be more careful about checking the correctness of the references – e.g. some years don't agree, names (or et. al.) are sometimes missing.

In summary, the author clearly did a lot of reading of important literature, and did a good job of introducing the problem. The descriptions of the indicators were informative and well-referenced with interesting case-studies. Therefore, it was disappointing that the stated aim of the diploma was not given more time and thought. With a little more analysis and enhanced discussion of the comparative usefulness of the indicators, this diploma would clearly have been excellent. Unfortunately, because of the shortcomings, I can only recommend that it be considered “very good” (2).

RNDr. David Hardekopf, Ph.D.
Ústav pro životní prostředí, PřF UK v Praze

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Strucny souhrn v cestine:

Prace zabyva indikatory na obnovy ekosystemu, a ma hlavní cil porovnat procesu sukcese a rekultivace s pouzity tyto indikatory, jak je napsano v stranka 10:

“Provnani procesu sukcese a procesu rekultivace prostrednictvim indikatoru hodnoty pH, organickeho uhliku v pude, produkce, pokryvnatosti stromu a diversity **je predmetem tetu prace.**”

Prace je dobre orginizovano, ma jasne struktura a je prehledne. Záratek (uvod plus kapitoly 2,3) je zajimave a dava dobre pozadi problematice. Kapitola 4, který popisuje jednitlovy indikatory, je taky dobre napsano. Je jasne, ze autorka cetla hodne clanky, vetsine s mezinarodni a respektovane casopisy, a vysvetluje indikatory s priklady z mezinarodni studie.

Bohuzel, nasledujice kapitola (5) je zklamani – z cil napsani na stranka 10, tady by melo byt hlavní cast prace. Tabulky 4-8 shrnuji 4 oblasti, ale není skoro zadne porovnani indikatory, na priklad jestli v citovane prace autori povazovali rozdili v indikatory na její lokalite jako significantni. Autorka ma jenom hodne strucne komenty a diskuze k kazdy tabulka. Taky v souhrn chyby nejaky diskuze o tome který indikatory muzou byt dukazy ze ekosystem obnovi, a proc tech indikatory by melo ne nemelo byt pouzity. V zaveru je napsana ze funkencost indikatory pH, org C, diversity, a produkce zalezi na specificky podminky na kazdy oblast. Pro mne, to moc nesedi s veta na konce kapitola 6ti: “Jako vyodny parametr k vyhodnoceni se nabizi hodnota pH, koncentrace org. C v pude, diversita druhu a produkce lokality.”

Dalsi problem je taky v citace – jak citace v textu který nejsou v seznam literatura, a citace v seznamu literatura který nejsou v textu. Nekterý citace taky maji chybi, napriklad jiny roky, jmena který chybi, atd.

Na priklad:

Stys a kol (1981) - citovan 3x na stranka 8, není v Literatura
Schoenholtz et al. (1992) st. 14, není v Literatura
OSMRE (2006) st. 15, není v Literatura
Torbert et. al. (1994) st. 16, není v Literatura

Clark et. al. (2003) – v Literatura, ale ne v textu
Kasner a Slack (2002), v Literatura, ale ne v textu
McKee (2007), v Literatura, ale ne v textu
Atd....

V zaveru, je jasne ze autorka ceta mnoho prace, a její sumarazace problematika je dobre udelano. Popsovani indikatory taky bylo informativne, dobre citovane, a s zajimave priklady. Bylo pak zklamani ze cil prace nebylo lip splneno. S trochu vic analyza a diskuze o rozdili v indikatory v danim prikladu, prace by urcite bylo vyborne. Bohuzel, s duvodu nedostatki jak napsani nahore, a problemi s citace, mohou doporučit jenom “velmi dobre”.

RNDr. David Hardekopf, Ph.D.
Ústav pro životní prostředí, PřF UK v Praze