

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INTO THE ORDINATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF GREEK RIVERS

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ABSTRACT

Data on undisturbed lotic macroinvertebrate communities were assembled from a number of studies carried out in northern Greece; largely genus- level information for 24 sites on four main river systems were available. Ordination (CANOCO) and classification (FUZZY) techniques were used to determine the similarity of community composition among the sites. Correlation of the environmental variables with the classifications of macroinvertebrates showed that the chief influencing factors were distance from source, pH, TSS and substrate type. The classification also revealed groups of sites and taxa characteristics of particular trends in the ordination.