

**LONG-TERM INTRASPECIFIC VARIATIONS IN NECTAR SECRETION
IN THE PHRYGANA: IMPLICATIONS FOR ECOLOGICAL
MANAGEMENT**

T. PETANIDOU

*Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Faonos & H. Trikoupi,
GR-81100 Mytilene, Greece*

ABSTRACT

We studied the long-term (> 1 year) intraspecific variation in nectar secretion (volume and sugar content) of 15 plant species, dominant in a Mediterranean shrub community. Nectar secretion was strongly influenced by rainfall and post-fire age. Out of 11 species, seven secreted more nectar during the years of high rainfall, whereas three remained constant and only one decreased. Perennial species tended to increase their nectar secretion during the mature phryganic stage compared to the early post-fire one; contrariwise, the nectar secretion of annuals decreased in the long-term succession. Within the whole community (67 species) the flowers of the perennials yielded more nectar compared to the annuals, whereas the geophytes were in between. We discuss these peculiarities vis-à-vis with the main management practices applied to these communities, i.e. fires, grazing, and beekeeping in view of conserving the biodiversity in these biomes.