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WETLAND HABITATS IN FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA:
RELICT AREAS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR LEPIDOPTERA

*HABITAT UMIDI IN FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA:
BIODIVERSITÀ NEI LEPIDOTTERI DI AREE RELITTE*

Abstract - 1.314 species of Lepidoptera are recorded for the fauna of 18 Natura 2000 sites in Friuli Venezia Giulia, most of them associated with wetland habitats. Further 81 species are based on older data. The species inventory includes several remarkable records to Italy including new faunistic data, species new to science and endangered and protected species which are reviewed exemplarily. The significance of each biotope for Lepidoptera is discussed in some detail.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Wetland habitats, Faunistics, Italy, Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Riassunto breve - *In questo lavoro sono state censite 1.314 specie di Lepidotteri rinvenute in 18 siti di Natura 2000 del Friuli Venezia Giulia, molti dei quali associati alla presenza di zone umide. Ulteriori 81 specie vengono inoltre segnalate sulla base di dati storici. L'elenco delle specie comprende molte segnalazioni notevoli per l'Italia con dati faunistici inediti, specie nuove per la scienza e specie minacciate e tutelate che sono state esaminate singolarmente. Il valore di ciascun biotopo per quel che riguarda i Lepidotteri è stato discusso dettagliatamente.*

Parole chiave: *Lepidoptera, Ambienti umidi, Dati faunistici, Italia, Friuli Venezia Giulia.*

Introduction

Wetland areas are increasingly threatened all over Europe and such habitats are therefore considered of particular value for the conservation of a peculiar fauna and flora. Thus, many of such biotopes are nowadays protected within the European conservation network "Natura 2000" all over the continent. The Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has nominated several relict wetland sites, mainly situated in the dealpine lowland of the Po plain. Despite of this legal obligation, until recently the scientific background about the protected areas was very low. Therefore the Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale (Udine) initiated a survey about various faunistic components characteristic for 18 Natura 2000 sites, most of them related to moors and fens. Butterflies and moths as key organisms for terrestrial habitats were selected as one of the important groups for this monitoring

