



Habitat and Niche Concept

Previously habitat and niche were considered as synonyms but later on it was proved that they have different concepts



Habitat and Niche Concept

Habitat:

It is living place or house of an organism in relation to its environment

Types:

- Microhabitat
- Macrohabitat

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Types of habitat:

- **Microhabitat**

It is short living place within the macrohabitat e.g. A honey bee comb or aphid living and feeding on a leaf

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Types of habitat:

- **Macrohabitat**

It is general or main living place of an organism in which it lives
e.g. A water pond, a forest,
a desert.

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Niche:

There are two different concepts about niche.

1. Grinnel (1717) used the word niche for the first time to describe the role of an insect species in its community/ environment.

Role means whether it is usefull or harmfull to its community, whether it takes or gives something to its community.

Role also describes the act played by the organism (predator/ prey or parasitoid/ host)

As role is a variable entity (change with change in habitat) so this concept was not accepted

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Niche:

2. A modern concept of Niche was given later on, which described “Total resource utilization by an insect species in its environment for successful survival and reproduction”.

Various species occupying same habitat may not have the same niche

Some times as an exceptional case, many species have the same niche

e.g. Eight species of a leaf hopper (Genus *Erythronura*) are found feeding and sitting on the leaves of a single tree.