Burn, Beetle, Burn - Heathland Inferno The effect of fire on beetles in grazed coastal heathlands

WHERE DID WE GO?

Location:

Hopøyna, ca. 58 km north of Bergen in western Norway in the municipality of Øygarden.



Context:

The coastal heathland of western Norway is a cultural landscape shaped by farmers who have burned the landscape for thousands of years. The use of this traditional management method has declined over the years.

Hypothesis:

- Fire will influence the recolonization of beetles because it changes the vegetation structure and creates an open habitat that differs from the more diverse and heterogenous, mature heath in the control area.
- Beetles that can live in an open landscape will colonize the burnt area, and the control area will be inhabited by beetles that favours coverage.





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Burnt vs. Control:

During summer season of 2020 we set pitfall traps in two areas: one north in a burnt area and the other in a control area with old, grown heath located south.

Replicates:

. We had five replicates in each area. And for burnt, two of the replicates were set in an area burnt in 2018 (yellow) and three replicates set in an area burnt in 2019 (red).



Sampling design:

HOW DID WE DO IT?

DIRECTION OF FIRE

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

After fire, pioneer beetles of the family Carabidae is first on the run to recolonize the area. As the heath matures, this family experiences competition when other beetle families, such as Staphylinidae, lay claim to the area.



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