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EFFECTS OF THERMAL POWER FLY ASHES ON THE POPULATION STRUCTURE OF SOIL MICRO-ARTHROPODS AT KOLAGHAT, EAST MIDNAPORE DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT : A field study was conducted at Thermal Power Station area in East Midnapore district of West Bengal for the purpose of establishing the effects of continuous emitting of fly euedaphic ashes on the soil ecosystem and microarthropods.

KEYWORDS : Pollution, Soil microarthropods, Population.

INTRODUCTION

Kolaghat Thermal power station emits fly ashes from coal combustion for generating electricity. A high amount of fly ash has been disposed from the power station units in surrounding areas. Some studies have been conducted on the environmental impact of fly ashes on upper soil (Sabota and Gill, 1998), on the aquatic populations (Guthrie *et al.*, 1973), cultivated crops (Sarangi and Mishra, 1998), soil and vegetation (Bohra and Kumar, 2002) etc. Since there was no work about the effect of fly ashes on soil micro arthropod fauna for this reason the present investigation was undertaken.

SAMPLING SITES

Three plots were chosen for the sampling viz. (i) Kolaghat Thermal Power Station area, (ii) Burari, 3 km away from Thermal Power Station and (iii) Kankta, 7 km away from Thermal Power Station.

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