

## ABSTRACT

### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF THE FAUNA LIVING IN TWO *GRIMMIA* MOSS MORPHOTYPES AT THE MCKENZIE TABLE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE, FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Moss invertebrates were collected at McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve from November 2004 through June 2005. Samples were collected from two different *Grimmia* moss morphotypes at two different locations (exposed, granitic outcropping and protected, seasonal riparian) and the majority of the invertebrates found were tardigrades, mites, collembolans, and chironomid larvae. The distribution of the moss fauna was very patchy and was not consistent with the initial hypothesis that more tardigrades would be found in the protected, wetter habitat. This may have been due to the greater than average rainfall that winter. Distribution patterns of the tardigrades in the host moss morphotypes could not be determined from the data.

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