Seasonal Patterns and Mycorrhizal Status of a Florida Wetland. (S10-ipsilantis154923-Poster)

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Abstract:

Elevated phosphorus concentrations are known to suppress mycorrhizae, a plant-fungal symbiotic association, while total fungi can benefit from additions of limiting nutrients. Blue Cypress Marsh (BCM) is a wetland in central Florida with nutrient impacted and unimpacted areas. We investigated arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) root colonization and total fungi (using ergosterol) as indicators of change in wetland quality. The plant communities sampled were Salix sp., Typha sp, Panicum hemitomon, Cladium jamaicence, and samples were also taken from a mixed community and slough areas. There was a seasonal pattern in AM root colonization, with a maximum during the wet season (summer). For soil ergosterol there were lower levels during the wet season, while for detrital ergosterol there was the opposite pattern. The observed patterns are discussed.

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