

Living with Insects

PROCEEDINGS

**XIX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF
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ABSTRACTS

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THE PREFERENCE OF A CERTAIN LEAF SIZE BY POLIVOROUS
INSECTS: PROBLEM CREATED BY RANDOM SAMPLING.
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Using random sampling as simple method to collect leaves in a tree crown we found in weevil *Polydrusus ruficornis* feeding on *Betula pubescens* ssp. *tortuosa* a strong preference to small leaves. Leaf-beetle *Gonioctena pallidus* feeding on *Salix phylicifolia* was shown to prefer large leaves. Both these species tend to feed on young top leaves of long shoots, but birch has the smallest leaves in distal part of long shoot while willow has the largest ones. Non-random distribution of large and small leaves in different parts of shoots and of tree crown and insect preference to leaves in certain parts of shoots and of tree crown create the effect of choosing of a certain leaf size by folivorous insects. This effect would disappear when we refuse from random sampling.