Abstract 2466
SELECTION OF INDICATORS OF SOIL BIODIVERSITY FOR A EUROPEAN MONITORING SCHEME

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Text: In the EU, FP7, Project 'EcoFINDERS' (Ecological function and biodiversity indicators in European soils), not only is the normal operating range for the biodiversity of soil organisms across Europe to be determined, but indicators for biodiversity are to be recommended and tested. This will include some of the most recent molecular biological methods (e.g. pyrosequencing, chip technologies) as well as the well tested conventional methods. Indicators for biodiversity were selected at a workshop in Coimbra, Portugal in November 2011 based on a logical sieve approach (Ritz et al 2009). The first section of this presentation will explore in detail the rationale, the process and the results of the indicator selection. The next step is then to deploy the chosen indicators across a range of European soil/land use/habitat scenarios given a project constraint of less than 100 sampling points. The second section of the presentation will describe the GIS/soils database approach to selecting a representative range of sites and outline the sampling regime to be undertaken.
(Ritz K et. al., 2009. Ecological Indicators 6:1212)