

### **Investigation of the beetles in riparian habitats**

Stream- and riverbanks with natural flow host a variety of organisms, most of which have become extinct as a result of straightening and deepening the riverbeds, covering banks with concrete and construction of dams. In the Carpathian Basin most waterflows suffered such changes, therefore traces of the original fauna can only be found at very few spots. Survey of the affected species has become pressingly urgent, and results must be brought to the attention of wider audience. Endemic beetle species can also be found in karstic areas at entrances of caves, where they also have become endangered by the recent habit of covering and building up entrances. The soil-washing method is used to collect such beetles, this extracts living organisms from the top soil (5–30 cm depth).



Use of the flotation method on the bank of Sava river above Zagreb



Banks with varied mineral deposit sizes (from larger stones to fine sand) have the richest fauna



After placing loamy-sandy wet gravel into the water and stirring, small beetles float to the surface of the water.





Soil-washing in Szigetköz, near Nagybajcs, in frequently flooded gallery forest.





Organic material (both living organisms and debris) can be collected from the foamy surface of the water by a fine-meshed filter and dried of water in a fabric sack.