

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN AREA OF HIGH NATURALISTIC INTEREST IN BORDANO, THE VILLAGE OF THE BUTTERFLIES

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Abstract

Mount San Simeone is situated, in northern Friuli, in the geographical area of Carnian Prealps. Its position between the Tagliamento river and the lake of Cavazzo make it different from all of the surrounding mountains. Due to its sunny position and its steep sided form, despite its modest altitude (1250) it presents a unique combination of microclimates such as to represent an almost complete synthesis of the environment and vegetation of the Friulan Prealps. The study area, given its particular characteristics of microclimate and vegetation, is populated by 650 species of lepidoter (550 moths and 100 butterflies) and the village of Bordano, at the foot of Mount San Simeone, is known nationally as the village of the butterflies. These come from different biogeographical regions: alpine, eurosibiric and mediterranean. Research carried out by entomologists supports the hypothesis that over the last 20 years there has been a reduction the heliophilous-pasture species and an increase in the forest species. This could be due to the lack of forestry management and mowing of pasture. The aim of this work is to analyse by means of satellite images the modifications of vegetational cover over the years. For this reason a Landsat1 MSS on 6 August and a more recent image of Landsat5 Tm on 26 July 2001 were used.