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Can linear transportation infrastructure verges constitute a corridor and/or a habitat for biodiversity in temperate landscapes? A systematic review

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Abstract (max. 150 mots):

The potential of habitat or corridor of linear transportation infrastructure (LTI) verges (road/railway embankments, strips under powerlines or above buried pipelines, waterway banks) for biodiversity remains controversial. This work is the first systematic review of their potential role in temperate landscapes. Our searches identified almost 65,000 articles, which concerned all compartments of biodiversity. The screening stages were restricted to articles about insects. After critical appraisal, 91 articles that reported 104 studies were included. Meta-analyses were performed on studies comparing biodiversity in verges vs. other habitats and we conducted narrative syntheses for the other aspects addressed. Meta-analyses revealed revealed that insect abundance was similar in LTI verges than in compared habitats, and sometimes even higher (pollinators and primary consumers in non-highway road verges). In addition, the characteristics of the surrounding landscape seemed to influence on LTI verge biodiversity. Finally, a knowledge gap was identified regarding the role of corridor of LTI verges.

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