



Studies on the Ecological Functions of Riverbanks and Shorelines for Their Restoration

Development of Techniques to Rehabilitate Riverbanks and Shorelines

Background

While neo-natural river reconstruction aims to retain sound natural riverbanks, the need for riverbank and shoreline reconstruction does occur and requires the most appropriate type of revetment. However, the ecological functions of riverbanks and shorelines have not been well studied, and basic knowledge for the development of revetments is limited. "Improved" sections of rivers that have been straightened and armored with revetments have suffered a decrease in their ecological roles. Consequently, we need to develop simple new techniques for restoring the natural environment. In this study, we investigated the ecological functions of riverbanks and shorelines in order to identify the physical environments that constitute critical components of such functions, and we suggested precautionary measures when undertaking conservation or restoration work on riverbanks and shorelines. Our findings provide baseline information for the development of new techniques for revetment construction and restoration work.

Shores and riverbanks provide habitat for many living creatures

