

**Arthropod abundance following prescribed burns in a mixed pine-oak forest of central Texas.** Stephen W. Taber, Saginaw Valley State University, Biology Department, University Center, MI 48710, 989/964-4824

A survey was conducted over an 8-month period to determine how a prescribed burn affected arthropod abundance and diversity in a relict pine-oak forest of central Texas. One section was burned to remove leaf litter accumulated for a century or more when fires were not allowed to burn whereas an adjacent tract was left unburned as a control. Traps of various kinds were set out and checked weekly. One group of arthropods increased in number on the burned section, one group decreased, but most were unaffected even as recently as eight months post-burn. Other groups await analysis. Preliminary results suggest that prescribed burns may be carried out without harm to the majority of arthropod species that occur within the forest. These results are of interest to those concerned with the preservation of the endangered amphibian species that makes its home in the Lost Pines, and to those who wish to restore the forest to a more natural condition with increased plant and animal diversity.