

SUMMARY

Middens (*i.e.* persistent 'dung-heaps') produced by Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) on a limestone quarry-spoil bank in the process of reclamation were small areas of enhanced biological activity, initiated and maintained by Rabbits, that were probably beneficial, through recycling of nutrients, to those same Rabbits.

The soil of the middens, at a depth of 0–5 cm, was moister, richer in nutrients, of lower pH, and more humic, than elsewhere on the spoil. It probably owed these characteristics to the Rabbits' urine as well as dung.

Middens were 'beneficial' to the pioneer vegetation through the resultant of increased fertility and grazing; sown grasses were stimulated to produce local patches of sward on the spoil. The plants themselves were more intensely green, and richer in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, than those in the surrounding area.

Associated with the soil surface of the middens was a rich invertebrate fauna, some members of which must be directly and entirely dependent on the dung. Overall the Rabbits were judged beneficial to the reclamation.

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EDITORIAL NOTICE

Owing to misreading a digit in preparing the make-up of this Spring issue, the usual list of 'Other Books etc. Received' during the preceding calendar year is having to be held over for publication at the end of the Summer issue. — Ed.