

Limnology Encyclopedia Article

Limnology

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Limnology

Derived from the Greek word *limne*, meaning marsh or pond, the term limnology was first used in reference to lakes by F. A. Forel (1841–1912) in 1892 in a paper titled "Le Léman: Monographie Limnology," a study of what we now call Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Limnology, also known as aquatic **ecology**, refers to the study of fresh water communities within continental boundaries. It can be subdivided into the study of lentic (standing water habitats such as lakes, ponds, bogs, swamps, and marshes) and lotic (running water habitats such as rivers, streams, and brooks) environments. Collectively, limnologists study the morphological, physical, chemical, and biological aspects of these habitats.