

Review of: "Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Reviewer#:

Title: Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon

General:

Overall, I found that the manuscript does address an important issue. However, I would like the authors to elaborate a bit more on the choice of study areas. Because of numerous grammar mistakes, I found myself editing part of the manuscript instead of really engaging with the science and stats, which is problematic. I could not edit the whole document. I strongly advise that the authors get the manuscript proofread and scientifically edited before submitting it again. Please see the Word document for more detailed suggestions. I will be more than willing to re-review the manuscript once this is done.

Abstract

There are many grammar mistakes.

Good English editing is required.

The abstract is a bit poor and needs to be improved.

Introduction

The authors give sufficient background, but it is not well organized. The authors should emphasize the background in the case of Gabon. The objectives need to be rephrased because of many grammatical errors that need to be addressed. Nothing is mentioned regarding the increase or decrease of rattan species according to a disturbance gradient.

Materials and Methods

Once again, some grammatical errors need to be addressed.

The study area section can be expanded somewhat. More information is necessary on what the different sites are (e.g., what are the soil types?).

The authors should add a photograph of this species in Material and Methods

A formula to obtain the value of the observed ecological diversity is needed (e.g., species richness, Shannon index of diversity, etc.) and references should be added. For species composition, you can think about ANOSIM, Bray-Curtis, and SIMPER.

Results

Some grammatical errors made the section hard to read and follow the results. As previously mentioned, this paper needs urgent English editing.

Figures 2, 3, 4, 5... (milieu pertube, peu pertube, tiges, especes, tiges coupees, etc.) Please make sure everything is written in English.

Discussion

Often, the results are repeated in this section, which is not desired.

References

Make sure that references in the text are uniform. Sometimes commas are inserted after the surnames of authors, and sometimes not.