

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.

Dear Editor / Authors,

The manuscript titled: "Ecological diversity, structure, and exploitation of rattan in accordance with a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon" is relevant to forest ecology and provides useful information about the abundance, distribution, regeneration, pressure, and exploitation status of rattan species in this region (Nkoltang forest in Gabon). This means that the results from this study will help decision makers and the government in the sustainable management of rattan in the Nkolang forest.

However, some considerations are necessary to improve the quality of the study. So, in addition to the following recommendations, some suggestions follow along the text and would be interesting to improve this manuscript. I recommend the publication of this manuscript after the authors have taken into consideration all the remarks or observations made.

With regard to the abstract, it is important to insert information to describe the areas studied. The methodology used is unclear, lacking variables collected, the data analysis approach, and tools used to analyze data.

The introduction failed to address the characteristics of a rattan forest and the impacts of anthropogenic pressure on this type of forest in the Guinea-Congo forests of Central Africa, including the study area.

In the methodology, there is no information about the site (localization, GPS reference, temperature, rainfall, humidity, slope, altitude). The authors mentioned three types of disturbance but did not explain how they were measured and how data were collected in each habitat. Variables used for data collection are not clearly explained. It's good to clarify how the parameters that were measured or defined (ecological diversity, composition, distribution, farm status, and health). It would also be good to specify the version of EXCEL used to sort data and give brief information about the Ri386 used for data analysis and the specific tests that were run with this software.

Regarding the presentation of the results, it is good to use simple colors in figures 2, 3, 4, 5.

Needs a statistical test to mark the difference among habitat types.

The new finding is not mentioned clearly in the conclusion. The conclusion failed to elaborate on the perspectives based on the main results found in the study.

Other comments

- Authors' affiliations and addresses should come after their names. Not looking good to insert them in between the abstract and keywords.
- In the abstract, the authors should clearly summarize the methodology used to collect data: description of the spots, number of samples collected, biological variables, data analysis.
- The abstract lacks the conclusion and the perspective sections.
- Review the way you are giving citations for other authors or their studies in the text. So be consistent in the way you give citations in the text.
- Be consistent in the way you give scientific names of plants.
- Look for native English speakers to proofread your paper.
- Redo all the graphs with English terms.
- Make sure your bibliography respects the same order for scientific papers, books, book chapters, and theses.