

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.

The work is interesting and fits well with the aims of the journal. Unfortunately, some criticisms need to be addressed.

The introduction is complete; the first part, which is too long and unnecessary, needs to be rewritten.

Overall, the description of the study area is adequate. The topographic conditions of the plots need to be described. Are they homogeneous in terms of slope, altitude, and aspect? Are there any topographical differences between the plots?

Please justify.

Data processing: please describe the statistical approach in detail and check the references of the methods and software used (Ri386? Please check: <https://ropensci.org/blog/2021/11/16/how-to-cite-r-and-r-packages/>). "The data were subjected to the graphical normality test". Please describe and report the results in the results section. "The normality of the data has been tested beforehand"; please also explain and report this in the results section. I have a question: Have you considered the possibility of using a multivariate approach to examine the data?

Please present the results more clearly and concisely. Show the full results of the statistical procedures. This is an important part of the paper.

Tables and figures: please translate all labels and map legends.