

# 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,

This manuscript under title: **"Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon"** which was investigated to assess abundance, the spp. distribution, regeneration, and exploitation status of the different rattan spp. In three areas of the Nkoltang forest.

I checked the whole manuscript carefully. This paper's finding is significant for development of sustainable management policies of NTFPs in Gabon. I suggest to authors that revise the manuscript carefully again. After an intensive revision, this paper may contribute on policies of NTFPs in Gabon. However, the following questions should be addressed in revision as well.

The abstract was not consistent or reflect with the title. I would like to put comments to make interactive for general reader orient it, because abstract is still very generic and confusing. The introduction part makes clearly tell us why this study should be carried out, and what is the progress of the similar studies, what's the contribution of this manuscript filling the gap between the known and unknown knowledge of this field? But the introduction is still too narrow from my point of view. I would suggest rewriting the whole introduction. Basically, the objective was not clearly defined for reader in the introduction as well as in abstract. Authors should reframe their research objective or question base of their study title. I think this article will help you in track to develop this article in more advance way: Hossain, et al.

(2019):<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11676-018-0786-3> and Pavel, et al. (2016):<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11629-015-3501-2>

Please also clarify my question here based on your research title: how does disturbance effect on the spp. of health status and diversity in the same study areas? If you decide that disturbance is your dependent variable, then could you tell us why you are using exploitation as independence variable in you formulate research question. Does its valid hypothesis if it valid then do you think that the way you present your research result, is it right? Do you agree to revise your research question?

In method, Author's does not explain clearly and step wise about the method of investigation process for information collection and analysis. Author uses several subheadings in method which could be confused to reader, even author does not explain what they are consider as disturbance or what they are found as disturbance that are not clearly mentioned or

define in method. Again, which does not reflect author propose research objective in their research.

Authors are not clearly present the result and discussion section to cover their objectives, even though objective was not clearly formulated in the introduction and abstract. Again, I think in overall, result is revealed here as nicely descriptive talk with so many tables without consider the disturbance variable.

In conclusion, I detect that the conclusion part is very confusing for general reader in Authors manuscript. In addition, Authors need to address the specific meaning of the finding and what could be done in further studies. And, for conclusion, Authors can only write shortly the main findings with policy recommendation (what should be needed to do for this spp. from your findings) for policy maker, for example?