

Peer Review

Review of: "Prey Selection of the Invasive Gastropod *Rapana venosa* (Valenciennes 1846) from the Río de la Plata Estuary Under Laboratory Conditions"

Esteban Ortiz¹

1. Centro Universitario Regional del Este–Departamento de Ecología y Gestión Ambiental, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

This study analyzes the prey selection patterns of the invasive gastropod *Rapana venosa* under controlled laboratory conditions when two specific prey species are offered: *Erodona mactroides* and *Mytilus edulis*. The results suggest a consumption preference for *E. mactroides* over *M. edulis*, even though the latter was consumed in higher biomass quantities. Since *E. mactroides* is identified as a high-profit prey, the findings align with the predictions of optimal foraging theory.

Overall, the article is well-written and structured, and the analysis of prey selection under laboratory conditions is a point to highlight. The results are promising, as they indicate a consistent selection trend among the three individuals analyzed. The study could be improved by increasing the sample size to enable statistical inferences that validate the conclusions. Additionally, incorporating a greater variety of prey items and sizes would strengthen the analysis. In this regard, it would also be advantageous to consider predators within different size classes.

Finally, an interesting aspect to explore in future experimental designs, or at least discuss in the manuscript, is how intraspecific competition among *R. venosa* individuals might influence the observed results since only one individual was placed in each tank.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.