

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.

This is a very nice study on socio-economic as well as ecological important rattan stands around the Nkoltang forest of Gibon. Though the present article is very nicely presented on rattan stands distribution over various disturbance gradients, there may be suggested certain modifications to make it more impactful. These are:

1. Different types of indices like Shannon's diversity index (H'), Simpson's Dominance index, Importance Value Index (IVI) etc. may be calculated for rattan species that emphasizes community structure and ecological distribution with more viable scientific details.
2. As per the Author(s) information, Tukey's Multiple comparison test has been calculated for the data which was not shown properly. Hence, the data with statistical significance should be reflected on tables and figures. The bar diagrams may be supplied with standard errors in terms of error bars.
3. Authors should specify minimum number of quadrates and line transects required to effectively quantify the phytosociological survey over the entire forest area under the present study.
4. Further studies may be carried out for molecular identification of the rattan species in the study area. Again, Marker-based DNA fingerprinting may be done to characterize and distinguish various ecotypes more precisely.
5. Finally, in the conclusion part, there is a missing link between the future scope of the economic use of the rattan species in the locality and development of new policies for NTFP management in Gibon.