

# Review of: "Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon"

Pedro Henrique Monteiro Do Amaral<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Comments

The article entitled "Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon", presents results on the structure of rattan species in gradients of different land uses. I have comments to make throughout the manuscript.

## Abstract

- 1) In the final sentence of the abstract, articulate the novelty of your study and its relevance. Make it clear.
- 2) Keyword. The word "Rattan" is contained in the title, I suggest adding another keyword.

## Introduction

- 3) I found the introduction to be lengthy (around 13 paragraphs) and confusing, with repetitive information (e.g., paragraph 6).
- 6) I believe there is room for improvement in terms of conciseness and clarity in your introduction.
- 4) First paragraph. I suggest removing "exist and...".
- 5) Third paragraph. What was the loss of habitat observed in the study by Latiff (2011) and Masum et al. (2017)? Was it the same as observed in your study? Make it clear.
- 6) Fourth paragraph. Is the *Oncocalamus* taxon a pioneer plant species? Therefore, does it have the capacity to colonize degraded areas? If so, include this information in the text. If not, explain why they are good colonizers (e.g., low nutritional requirements).
- 7) Paragraph 9. The first sentence repeats the information from paragraph 7. I suggest removing or improving the sentence for greater clarity. Furthermore, the information in these paragraphs is redundant.

## Choice of Study Sites

- 8) First paragraph. The phrase "to develop and developing" appears to be a repetition or a potential typo. It's unclear if it's intentional or an error.

9) Third paragraph. In the phrase "4 kilometers walk," remove "walk".

#### Data Collection Methodology

10) First paragraph. In the sentence "....five (05) hundred meters," I suggest removing "(05)".

11) Second paragraph. In the sentence "The identification of rattan species was carried out using the determination keys set up by many authors: Couvreur and Niangadouma, 2016...", I suggest rewriting it to "The identification of rattan species was carried out using keys: Couvreur and Niangadouma, 2016...".

#### Data Analysis and Processing

13) Which normality test was used? You must specify.

14) What diversity index was used, Shannon or Simpson? It must be clear.

#### Discussion

15) First paragraph. The phrase "In addition, further studies should provide this information" must appear at the conclusion of your work.

16) Second paragraph. The sentence "A total of 683 rattan stems belonging to 7 rattan species and 3 genera were inventoried in the study area" is repeating your results.

17) Second paragraph. The phrase "It should be remembered, however, that it cannot be claimed to be exhaustive because prospecting remains inadequate" is disconnected from your discussion. I couldn't understand her. I suggest improving the discussion.

18) Second paragraph. You highlight some methodological problems "The quality of the images and the absence of a botanist in the field certainly did not minimize the margin of error.....". What could you have done differently to reduce the error in identification?

19) Throughout your discussion, you repeatedly use the words "Also", "However," and "In addition." I suggest that you avoid repeating these words throughout your discussion.

20) I don't know the frequency of studies carried out with "rattan species", but the references cited throughout the discussion are old, approximately 10 to 20 years ago. Need to update it.

21) Fifth paragraph. The phrase "When this index is significantly higher than one, the rattan stand has a good capacity to renew". Was it verified by your study, or is it based on literature?

22) Seventh paragraph. In the phrase "Analysis of the results on the regeneration..". What analysis? Cite in the text.

23) Why does the cutting pressure decrease as disturbance increases?

## Conclusion

24) Why do local populations appear to have a low impact on the resource?

25) In the text, you explain that the methodology used presents identification problems. Do you still recommend the methodology?