

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.

I have read the manuscript "Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan " and I found the authors addressed a concern dealing with the assess abundance; the species distribution, regeneration and exploitation status of the different rattan species along three disturbances levels in Nkoltang forest. Generally, I can say that there is no scientific shortcoming in this study.

Title: is clear and informative, I just suggest replacing "according" with "along"

Abstract:

Generally, the abstract is congruent with the text and the experimental design, and the results are well presented. However, the conclusion paragraph of the abstract needs to effectively address the meaning of the findings.

Keywords: to make the paper more searchable the authors need to avoid using the same words within the title.

Introduction:

Overall, the introduction is good enough to situate the readers in the context of the study, however, the introduction seems long and needs a reduction in unnecessary sentences.

Laccosperma robustum (Burret) J.Dransf., species authorship should not be in italic, check overall the MN.

Materials and methods:

1. "Choice of Study Sites" here there is no need to write around the Rattan "Rattan, a species of NTFP heavily used by many urban..."
2. Define better the moderately and highly disturbed environment, what criteria of disturbance do the authors used to define these two levels of disturbances?
3. The size and regeneration of the different stands were quantified by counting mature stems, seedlings, and buds within the clumps (Chabot 1997; Yembi, 2000; Delbón et al. , 2017 ; Agbaniet al., 2018 ; Deguene, 2020) indeed no need to cite all of these authors, just cite the first one how used or invented the method.
4. Data Analysis and Processing: According to a disturbance gradient (Low-disturbance, Highly Disturbed, and Highly

Disturbed), there is repetition on the “Highly Disturbed” level

Results

In Figure 2. use the disturbance levels rather than the area names.

In Table 2. The abundance of rattan stems cut, the undisturbed area is showing more cutting, BUT in the area the Human activity is regulated by the regulations of the eco-guards in charge of the management of the park, how do the authors explain this?

The discussion

is very long and needs to be reduced

The structure of the stands shows a low presence of mature stems. What is (are) the reasons behind this finding?

Conclusion:

The conclusion is well- written, however, it needs to be referred to suggest possible future study.