

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 quite an interesting topic; this study is important for the western region of Africa, for the Conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem services provided by tropical ecosystems in current climate change scenarios. However, there are several things to be adjusted.

1. In the title the term "Ecological" can be removed. Its removal does not alter the idea of the title
2. The first paragraph is too small, the main topic of the study is poorly addressed. Supporting sentences are missing. Although the study is about a forest in Gabon (Africa), the first paragraph talks about rattan species in Asia, but does not say anything about rattan species in Gabon.

This paragraph needs to be improved much more.

1. The second and third paragraphs talk about rattan species and their exploitation problems in Southeast Asia, but there is no information about rattan species or stands in Gabon. Information known about these species in Gabon must be cited.
2. Until paragraph seven you begin to talk about species or stands of rattan in Gabon or in Africa.
3. Reading the first six paragraphs gives the idea that the study is being carried out in Asia. These paragraphs should focus more on studies carried out in Gabon and Africa.
4. Some of the first paragraphs address the same topics, therefore, some of them can be joined together.
5. In the scientific names the terms sp and spp are not italicized.
6. The genus *Pterocarpus* is misspelled in the manuscript.
7. The map captions are in French, the article will be published in English. This must be adjusted.
8. The methodology of diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan is poorly detailed.
9. Write all figure legends in English.
10. Page 10. "which regenerate only in the moderately", it's in italics.
11. Page 11. 4 classes of vegetative states of the stems were listed, not 5. Furthermore, since these classes were already described in the methodology section, it is not necessary to describe them again.
12. In the results section several tables can be merged to make reading the article easier, for example the tables in the subsection "Vegetative state of rattan stands in different habitats" can be merged.

13. Some genus and species names need to be italicized. Example on page 14
14. Page 14. It is genera not gender.
15. The conclusion should be better developed. You have enough results to expand and improve the conclusion.
16. The English writing of the manuscript should be improved.