

Efficiency of Surber net under different substrate and flow conditions: insights for macroinvertebrates sampling and river biomonitoring



In biomonitoring great attention has been paid on the selection of the best indices and metrics, often neglecting a simple but fundamental aspect: how reliable are the sampling methodologies? We tested the efficiency of the Surber net in collecting stream macroinvertebrates by comparing two samples collected consecutively on the same plot. We found that substrate particle size and water depth and velocity significantly affected sampling efficiency, especially regarding the total taxa richness, EPT (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera) richness and density. This study therefore provides useful insights to collect stream macroinvertebrates using the Surber net under different near-bed conditions.

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