

Ecology and diversity of freshwater shrimps in Banco National Park, Côte d'Ivoire (Banco River Basin)



Shrimps are an important component of river invertebrate assemblages in tropical freshwater where they are a controlling group in food webs. In order to determine shrimp diversity in the Banco Basin (Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa) and examine whether the patterns of species distribution were related to environmental conditions, six sites were monitored. Sampling was conducted in 2008 during February, May, September and November using a long-handled net (25-cm diameter, 2-mm mesh). For each site, we measured environmental variables (conductivity, pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, current speed, and water depth and width). Three shrimp species, *Macrobrachium thysi* (Powell 1980), *Macrobrachium dux* (Lenz 1910) and *Desmocarid trispinosa* (Aurivillius 1898) were identified. *D. trispinosa* was the largest distributed (more than 50% of occurrence) and the most abundant (67% of total number of specimens caught). It was followed by *M. thysi* with 47% and 32% of occurrence and abundance, respectively. Canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) showed a spatial distribution of the shrimp community, significantly influenced by width, depth, conductivity, type of substrate, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Due to the fact that the Banco River hosts an endemic species in Côte d'Ivoire (*Macrobrachium thysi*), the conservation of integrity of this basin was recommended.

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