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Survey of aquatic bugs' species in Bankim, a new endemic area in Cameroon

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Bankim district located in the Northern part of Cameroon (Adamaoua region: N 06°04'05" E 10°27'37"), has been recently described as a new endemic site in Cameroon. This region benefited from the construction of a dam which considerably modified the environment. Previous collections of some aquatic bugs in this region were shown positive for M. ulcerans. But aquatic bugs' biodiversity and biology still poorly documented. In the afore-mentioned context the present study was carried out to identify the commonly occurring medium and large size aquatic bugs fauna and workout their relative abundance, diversity according to type of water bodies and comparing with those trap in the night by light trap. Insects were collected daily from June 1st to June 30 2010 in ponds formed around dam flooded area, in streams and a river. Light traps made up of a 250 W bulb connected to an electrical generator put in front of a white sheet, were installed from 6 PM to 11PM during one lunar cycle, in 3 sites (near the dam, near habitations and in the forest) in the same month. We collected 338 aquatic bugs in different water bodies belonging to 6 families. Belostomatidae was numerically the most abundant group constituting of 33.13 % of the total aquatic insects followed by Naucoridae. Ranatridae (27.81%, 18.63%). The

Résumé en anglais

collected 338 aquatic bugs in different water bodies belonging to 6 families. Belostomatidae was numerically the most abundant group constituting of 33.13 % of the total aquatic insects followed by Naucoridae, Ranatridae (27.81%, 18.63%). The other families identified were Nepidae, Notonectidae, and of Gerridae representing respectively 9.46%, 5.91% and 5.02%. All families identified were present in streams and ponds but only two families (Ranatridae and Nepidae) were collected in the river; Among these 338 aquatic bugs, 59.17% (200) were collected in the streams, 38.16% (129) in the ponds and only 9 (2.66%) in the river. Through the light trap only 2 families were identified among a total of 390 aquatic bugs caught. Belostomatidae, predominant with 80.51% and Notonectidae 19.49%. Notonectidae were caught all along the month and during the full moon, but Belostomatidae were absent during full moon. According to the site of collection, we obtained 25.64% (100) of Belostomatidae and 11.94% (46) of Notonectidae near the dam; near habitations 21.53% (84) of Belostomatidae and 2.56% (10) of Notonectidae and in the forest, 33.33% (130) of Belostomatidae and 5.12% (20) of Notonectidae.

This preliminary entomological survey shows the variation of aquatic bugs' diversity according to the types of water bodies in the same endemic region and according to light attraction and the moon phases.

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