Quest Journals
Journal of Research in Environmental and Earth Sciences
Volume 12 ~ Issue 11 (November 2026) pp: 49-50
ISSN(Online) :2348-2532
www.questjournals.org

Research Paper

"A regional baseline of millipede diversity across forest and human-modified habitats in Tshopo Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo"

Mukirania, K. C.
Biodiversity Monitoring Centre, University of Kisangani
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Received 02 Nov., 2026; Revised 11 Nov., 2026; Accepted 13 Nov., 2026 © The author(s) 2026.
Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

Dear Editor,
We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled:
"A regional baseline of millipede diversity across forest and human-modified habitats in Tshopo Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo"
for consideration for publication in the Journal of Research in Environmental and Earth Sciences (JREES).
This study provides a regional baseline of millipede diversity based on harmonized records from four sites in Tshopo Province: Masako, Yoko, Yangambi, and Mbiye Island. The dataset comprises 373 recorded individuals provisionally assigned to 16 taxa, three families, and two orders. We describe observed taxonomic richness, Shannon and Gini–Simpson diversity, Pielou evenness, Hill numbers, and pairwise assemblage resemblance using Jaccard similarity and Bray–Curtis dissimilarity.

The study identifies differences in recorded millipede diversity and assemblage composition among the four study sites and across the represented habitat categories. Importantly, because sampling effort, sampling periods, and habitat representation were not fully balanced and complete trap-level metadata were not consistently available, we interpret these patterns as descriptive evidence rather than causal effects of habitat modification. We believe that this transparent regional baseline is valuable for improving knowledge of soil and litter biodiversity in the central Congo Basin and for guiding future standardized and replicated surveys.
The manuscript has been carefully revised to address methodological and interpretative limitations identified during an external audit. In particular, we have:

- clarified the provisional status of species-level identifications;
- avoided unsupported causal interpretations;
- explicitly documented limitations in sampling-effort metadata;
- retained habitat categories as reported in the original source records without inventing standardized criteria;
- corrected the treatment of Pielou evenness for one-taxon assemblages;
- used consistent notation for Gini–Simpson diversity and Hill numbers;
- removed rarefaction estimates that could not be independently reproduced from the available data;
- clarified the descriptive interpretation of Jaccard and Bray–Curtis results; and
- strengthened the Discussion concerning sampling limitations and priorities for future monitoring.

We believe that the manuscript is relevant to the scope of JREES because it addresses biodiversity, entomology, forest ecology, soil/litter macrofauna, and conservation of tropical forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin.
The manuscript is original and is submitted for consideration for publication in JREES. We confirm that the manuscript is not being considered simultaneously by another journal.
Thank you very much for considering our manuscript. We would be grateful for the opportunity to have it evaluated by the reviewers of the journal.
Sincerely,
Mukirania, K. C.
Biodiversity Monitoring Centre, University of Kisangani
Democratic Republic of the Congo
On behalf of all authors
Corresponding author:
Corneille Kahandi
Email: corneille.kahandi@unikis.ac.cd