

Original Research Article

MACRO FAUNAL DIVERSITY IN DATE PALM PLANTATION SOILS OF MODIBBO
ADAMA UNIVERSITY, IN YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE OF, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This research assessed the macro-faunal diversity in soil of date palm plantation of Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Adamawa State. Parameters evaluated included; assemblage and diversity of soil macro invertebrates based on growth performances of the date palm. The plantation was divided according to growth variabilities. Assessment of macro fauna species was carried out using plots of 20m × 20m which was randomly selected, using plots of 1m x 1m that were laid at each angle point. Top soil for biological assessment of soil samples, were collected using trowels at depths ranging from 0-30cm depth. The soil samples were immediately spread on board of about 60cm² and sorted for the presence of macro fauna. Soil macro-invertebrates identification and enumeration. Soil macro-invertebrate assemblage was analyzed for diversity indices of species using relevant formulae. Results showed a total of 648 macro fauna scattered within the study area. Seventeen (17) Families of macro fauna were also identified in the study. *Lumbricus terrestris* (earthworm), the *Heterotermes species* (termites) and those belonging to the *Formicidae family* (ants) were the groups having the highest number of individuals. Leading to the conclusion that soil Macro fauna were present in the study area. However, the numbers of macro fauna were very active in the date palm plantation soil. This is an indication that strong relationship exists between macro fauna-invertebrates the date palm trees.

Keyword: Diversity, Date palm, Macro-faunal and Soil

INTRODUCTION

Macro fauna are the most conspicuous group of organisms which have great potential to modify the soil environment through their activities. Earthworms and termites are widely recognized for their role in soil structure formation, organic matter incorporation and decomposition and nutrient mineralization. Adrian *et al.* (2020) consider these organisms as “ecosystem engineers”, which are defined as organisms that directly or indirectly modulate the availability

of resources to other species, by causing physical state changes in biotic or abiotic materials; in so doing they modify, maintain and create habitats. Earthworms and termites ingest organic matter or a mixture of mineral soil and organic matter and create channels and nests in the soil, thus creating solid organo-mineral structures that may persist longer than the organisms that produced them. They developed highly efficient digestion systems based on internal mutualism with micro flora and protozoa that live in their gut. Earthworms and termites constitute >90% of the biomass of the invertebrate fauna in soils of sub-Saharan Africa ([Adriana-Adriano et al. 2020](#)). The date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) tree belongs to the family *Arecaceae* and is considered as a symbol of life in the desert, as it tolerates high temperatures, water stress, and salinity more than many other fruit crops (Effi, *et al.* 2011). Date palm can be planted in a wide range of soils with varying amounts of organic and mineral nutrients. Many parts of the world where date palm is grown still follow the traditional mixed planting of dates of various ages at irregular spacing. Moreover, inadequate fertilizer application and lack of proper tree and bunch management, such as pruning and fruit thinning, lead to the production of low fruit quality and thus lower market values (Elamin *et al.*, 2017).

Soil macrofauna contribute, greatly to biodiversity in agro ecosystems and are important as effective components of natural soil ecosystems. Terrestrial ecosystems are divided into belowground and aboveground subsystems. These subsystems are intricately dependent upon one another since above the ground primary producers (plants) are the main source of organic carbon for sustenance of the belowground system, while below ground organisms are in charge of recycling organic matter and mineralization of nutrients therein resulting from above ground primary production (Cahyo-, *et al* -2019, Merlim-, 2015).

The decomposers are responsible for breakdown of organic matter, release, and cycling of nutrients (Moura, *et al* 2015). Hence activity of decomposers results in increased plant growth and plant nitrogen content (Chokri *et al.*, 2014). Soil macrofauna communities in landscapes are rapidly changing due to land use conversions and agricultural intensification, hence they (soil macrofauna communities) are highly transient systems, where interactions between species or trophic levels are being seriously disturbed or lost. Influence of farming practices in modifying effects of soil organisms on aboveground systems is poorly understood, despite the fact that while these anthropogenic disturbances influence soil macrofauna communities at a local scale, they are a result of large-scale processes, such as increase in human population, change in land

size by fragmentation or consolidation of original landscapes and use such as crop types. Hence a change in distribution patterns of soil organisms (Siqueira *et al.*, 2014; Khodashenas *et al.*, 2012).

In the five years of the establishment of the date palm plantation of Modibbo Adama University of Yola, studies have not been done on biological constituents of the soil. The growth of the individual date palm plants have not been uniform, while some are performing very well, others have indication of stunted growth. Since the growth of every plant depends largely on the nutrient status which is in turn affected by the activities of soil macro fauna, information on the soil biological components in the date palm plantation becomes a pre requisite to understanding the differences in the performances of individual plants. The aim of this study is to assess the macro faunal diversity in the study area. The specific objectives are the Identify and evaluate the macro faunal diversity in the study area and identify and evaluate the microbial isolates in the study area.

At the end of the study the biological component of the date palm plantation was have been ascertained. The information on macro fauna diversity will thus, baseline information for future management of the date palm plantation and by extension any other date palm plantation that may be grown under similar conditions. The results of the research will be an invaluable tool to the date palm plantation managers in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Modibbo Adama University of Yola and indeed many other organizations and individuals that are in Evolved in Date Palm Research and production.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The Study Area

Adamawa State is located at the North Eastern part of Nigeria. It lies between latitude 7° and 11° N of the equator and longitude 11° and 14° E-. (Figure 1) (Adebayo *et al.*, 2020). The date palm plantation of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Adamawa State is located between latitude 8°N and 11°N Longitude 11.5°E and 13.5°E (Figure 2). Adamawa state falls under the Sudan, southern and guinea savannah type of vegetation and its experience distinct dry and wet seasons with temperature and humidity varying with seasons. The wet or rainy season falls between April and November, which is

characterized by single maximum in august and September. During this season, the moisture laden south west trade wind from the Atlantic Ocean blow over the area. Seventy percent of the total rainfall in the area happen to fall within four month of May- September (Adebayo, *et al.*2020).

The area has an average of 62 rainy days, while average amount of rainfall recorded in the area is 972mm.the dry season which is the harmattan period between December March. The period is characterized by dry, dusty and hazy northern trade wind that blows over the area from desert. Temperature within the area varies with season. Temperature of the area ranges from 27° C-40° C. The natural vegetation of the area is Sudan savannah type which is characterized by thick vegetation around hills and mountain ranges. The vegetation has a wide variety of savannah trees species among which area are; *Acacia spp*, *Adansonia spp*, *Anogeisus spp*. (Akosim, *et al*, 2020).

The soils of Adamawa State are classified as ferruginous tropical soils. These types of soils are defined often generally as having a marked differentiation of horizons and an abundance of free iron oxides usually deposited as red or yellow mottles or concretions, The soils of Adamawa State as derived from this system include Luvisols, Legosols, Cambisols, Vertisols and Lithosols (Adebayo *et al.*, 2020).

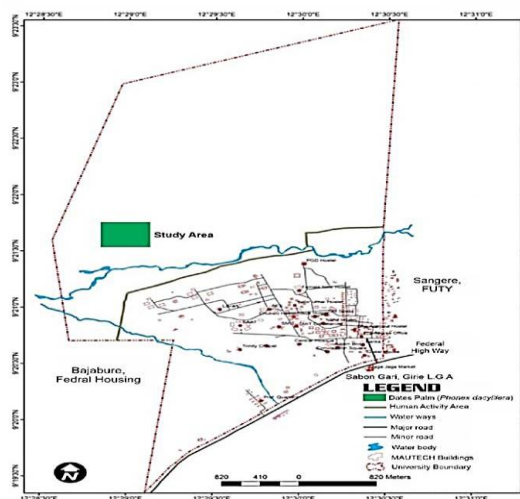
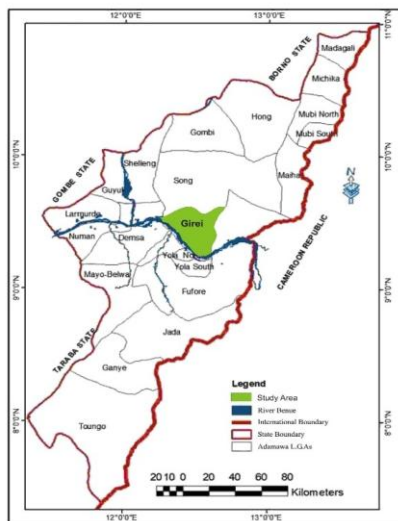


Figure 1. Map of Nigeria showing Adamawa State Figure 2: Map of MAU, Yola showing the study area

Source: GIS Laboratory, Geography Department MAU, Yola (2020).

Assessment of species of soil macro invertebrates

Assessment of macro fauna species was carried out using plots of 20m × 20m which was randomly selected from the assessment of macro fauna spp was done using plots of 1m x 1m that were laid at each anger point (Clegg *et al.* (1996) and Dishan *et al.* (2018). Top soil for biological assessment of soil samples, were collected using trowels at depths ranging from 0-30cm depth. The soil samples was immediately spread on board of about 60cm² and sorted for the presence of macro fauna (earthworms, crickets, termites, scorpions, spiders, mites, centipedes, millipedes, ants, beetles etc). The soil macro invertebrates' encountered in each of the sites was counted and recorded. Identification was done using literatures. Pictures of unidentified soil macro invertebrates were taken for the purpose of identification. The computation of species diversity indices per study site was done.

- i. Data on macro faunal diversity was determined using Shannon Diversity Index: This is illustrated as follows:

$$H^1 = -\sum_{i=1}^s P_i \ln(P_i) \text{ (Yager *et al.*, 2017)}$$

Where;

H^1 = Shannon Diversity Index

n_i = number of individuals in species

N = total number of all individuals

P_i = relative abundance of each species, calculated as the proportion of individuals of a given species to the total number of individuals in the community: n_i/N .

\ln = natural logarithm (Yager *et al.*, 2017).

Results

Diversity of Macro Invertebrate Species in the Study Areas

Table 1 shows a checklist of macro-invertebrate species assemblages of the Study Area. A total of 365, 139 and 153 individual species belonging to 14, 13 and 10 Taxa from the studied

Formatted: Left

sites were performance site respectively. Species encountered included; Earthworm (*Lumbricina terrestris*), Ant (*Monomorium minimum*), Subterranean Termite (*Heterotermes species*), Millipede (*Eurymerodesmidae spp*), Giant centipede (*Scolopendra gigantea*), Crickets (*Gryllus assimillis*), Ground Beetle (*Scaritinae clivinini*) Brown marmorated stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), Spider (*Araneus angulatus*), Giant Snail (*Achatina fulina*), common centipede (*Scutigera coleoptrata*) and Small snail (*Helix pomatia*).

Shannon wiener Diversity Index, Dominance, Evenness and Equitability indices values of macro-invertebrate species for the studied sites are presented in Table 3. The values followed the order; Shannon wiener Diversity Index $1.383 > 1.823 > 1.252$, Dominance values $0.511 > 0.235 > 0.198$, Evenness values $0.628 > 0.476 > 0.249$ and Equitability indices values were $0.798 > 0.710 > 0.474$ respectively (Table 3).

Table 1: Macro fauna present in the study area according to soil variability

S/N	Family Name	Scientific Name	High	Medium	Low
1	Lumbricidae	<i>Lumbricina terrestris</i>	*	*	-
2	Formicidae	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	*	*	*
3	Rhinotermitidae	<i>Heterotermes species</i>	*	*	*
4	Eurymerodesmidae	<i>Eurymerodesmidae spp</i>	*	-	-
5	Sclopendridae	<i>Scolopendra gigantea</i>	*	-	-
6	Gryllidae	<i>Gryllus assimillis</i>	-	*	-
7	Acrididae	<i>Conozoa hyaline</i>	-	*	-
8	Carabidae	<i>Scaritinae clivinini</i>	-	*	-
9	Pentatomidae	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>	*	-	-
10	Achantinidae	<i>Achatina spp</i>	*	*	-
11	Scutigeraidae	<i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>	-	-	*
12	Formicidae	<i>Lasius niger</i>	*	*	*

13	Helicidae	<i>Unidentified</i>	-	-	*
14	Uloboridae	<i>Achaeranea tepideariorum</i>	*	*	*
16	Formicidae	<i>Staphylinus caesareus</i>	-	-	*
17	Staphylinidae	<i>Centruroides Sculpturatus</i>	-	-	-

Keys: present (*) and absent (-).

Source: Field Survey, (2021).

Table 2: Some Macro-Fauna Species of the Study area

S/N	English Name	Scientific Name	High	Medium	Low
1	Earthworm	<i>Lumbricina terrestris</i>	25	12	5
2	Ant	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	-	2	3
3	Subterranean Termite	<i>Heterotermes species</i>	258	54	43
4	Millipede	<i>Eurymerodesmidae spp</i>	9	1	6
5	Giant centipede	<i>Scolopendra gigantea</i>	7	4	2
6	Crickets	<i>Gryllus assimillis</i>	10	3	-
7	Grasshopper	<i>Conozoa hyaline</i>	14	6	-
8	Ground Beetle	<i>Scaritinae clivinini</i>	8	4	2
9	Brow marmorated stink bug	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>	2	-	-
10	Snail	<i>Achatina spp</i>	18	-	-
11	common centipede	<i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>	7	2	5

12	Black ant	<i>Lasius niger</i>	40	35	15
13	Soil mites	<i>Unidentified</i>	-	1	-
14	Spider	<i>Achaeranea tepideariorum</i>	6	2	1
16	Rove beetle	<i>Staphylinus caesareus</i>	29	14	1
17	Scorpion	<i>Centruroides sculpturatus</i>	1	-	-
Total			426	140	81

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Variables	High	Medium	Low
Taxa_S	14	13	10
Individuals	365	139	153
Dominance_D	0.5113	0.235	0.1977
Simpson_1-D	0.4887	0.765	0.8023
Shannon_H	1.252	1.823	1.838
Evenness_e^H/S	0.2499	0.4763	0.6283
Brillouin	1.189	1.686	1.73
Menhinick	0.7328	1.103	0.8085

Margalef	2.203	2.432	1.789
Equitability_J	0.4745	0.7108	0.7982
Fisher_alpha	2.888	3.51	2.397
Berger-Parker	0.7068	0.3885	0.281
Total	389.69	165.13	174.27

Source: Field Survey, 2021

DISCUSSION

Diversity of Macro Invertebrate Species in the Study Sites

Findings of the soil macro-invertebrates showed that there was a total of 365, 139 and 153 individual species belonging to 14, 13 and 10 Taxa from the studied sites. This result is similar to the findings of Kabir (2020) but at variance with the report of FAO (2012), which observed that lands that are subjected to application of chemicals decimation of soil organisms. Although the Shannon wiener Diversity Indices of the study areas were within the same range, the species lists indicated higher number of soil macro-invertebrates 'species in the higher growth performance site than the other two sites. These macro faunas are important components of forest soil biodiversity and are essential to the ecosystem function and play a vital role in decomposition, carbon and nutrient cycles, soil structure and water movement in soil (Dominati *et al.*, 2010; Gholami *et al.*, 2017). Some factors are believed to be responsible for these

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

organisms' distribution, abundance, diversity and richness in forest soils. (Korboulewsky *et al.*, 2016; Schelfhout *et al.*, 2017).

Findings revealed the impact of date palm tree on assemblage of soil macro invertebrates in the plantation, showed that there was a substantial degree of interaction between the date palm and soil macro fauna in all the study area. Forests conversion or anthropogenic activities of humans may have resulted in the consistent changes in soil macro invertebrate assemblages among the soils variation in the plantation. From the findings in this study higher diversity was found in soil variable A than the other two. This may perhaps be due to the differences in soil litter accumulation across the plantation, since with macro invertebrates diversity is associated with, plant diversity, availability of soil nutrients, as well as soil and litter quality. It may also be related to water retention in the soil since WHC ??? is negatively with macro invertebrate's assemblage (Toana, *et al.* 2012).

The results shows that the assemblage of soil macro invertebrates can be linked to shifts from its natural state to a new land use, resulting to changes in soil ecosystem. This has previously been reported by Siqueira *et al.* (2014) in there study of Land use intensification effects in soil arthropod community of an Entisol in Pernambuco State, Brazil. These changes may as well lead to the loss of the ability of soil to function properly, and hence the loss of the capacity of the soil to maintain the growth of plants, and agricultural productivity (Salazar, *et al.* 2015). Soil physical properties are affected by soil macro invertebrates' activity and in turn affect soil macro invertebrate's activity which may also include changes in soil physical attributes comprising soil aggregation, porosity and water holding capacity (Sisay and Ketema, 2015). Anthropogenic activities or conversion from forest to other land uses can also accompany a progressive increase in soil bulk density and continuous decrease in pore space (soil compaction) which may decrease the niche availability for many small soil animals. Also, reduction in soil carbon via anthropogenic activities may also be a factor, soil carbon provides a resource for fungi and bacteria, on which many soil micro- and mesofauna community feeds, and thus changes in this food source could adversely affect their diversity.

The candidate manuscript does not have a robust scientific discussion, I suggest the authors incorporate the suggested paragraphs, in this way it would improve the scientific quality of the manuscript:

Formatted: Highlight

In general, the studies by Olivares et al. (2020a) and Olivares et al. (2022) establish that soil macrofauna and microfauna communities are often considered as bioindicators of soil quality in commercial banana plantations, as they are sensitive to environmental changes that can cause variations in their abundance and composition. At a global level, climate change has become a main topic to study soil ecology, since it has been shown that the functions provided by soil micro and macrofauna depend on climate, with emphasis on tropical territories (Olivares, 2016; Wu & Wang, 2019; Olivares et al. 2021a). Temperature and precipitation, in particular, play an important role along the altitudinal gradient and affect the dynamics of soil macrofauna (Velasquez, & Lavelle, 2019; Olivares et al. 2021b; Olivares et al. 2020b).

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that;

Macro fauna were present in the study area. However, the numbers of macro fauna Present in the soil **variable C ??** were low compared to **variable A and B ??** in the study areas. This is an indication that strong relationship exists between macro fauna, and the date palm trees. The macro fauna breakdown complex organic matter, giving fertility to the soil, others like earthworm burrow through the ground, making the soil porous, allowing water and nutrients pass through and absorbed by the plant. The plants on the other hand produce food for the soil macro fauna through litters and exudates.

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Highlight

Recommendations.

The following recommendations are hereby made:

- i. The Agricultural practices which combine trees and crops should be encouraged and application of agrochemicals is deleterious to the interrelationship of macro fauna and date palm, It also interferes with the varieties of food chains and food webs of the ecosystem.
- ii. Further research should be carried out on their biology and ecological requirement of macro invertebrate

REFERENCE

I suggest adding recent references which address the issue in question in Latin American territories. Suggested citations are for genuine scientific reasons that emphasize the current topic of study in context:

- Adebayo, A. A., Tukur A. L. and Zemba, A. A. (2020). *Adamawa State in Maps*. Paraclete Publishers Yola, Nigeria. Pp. 20-22.
- Adriano S, Alba N.M and Patrizia, R.(2020) Soil Macrofauna: A key Factor for Increasing Soil Fertility and Promoting Sustainable Soil Use in Fruit Orchard Agro systems *journal agronomy* 10, 456; doi:10.3390/agronomy10040456.
- Akosim, C., Tella, I. O. and Jatau, D. F. (2020). Vegetations characteristics of Adamawa State. In: Adebayo, A. A., Tukur A. L. and Zemba, A. A. *Adamawa State in Maps*. Paraclete Publishers Yola, Nigeria. Pp. 20-22.
- Cahyo P, Noegraha S, Eka Zainul H.S. P, and Rina R,(2019) Soil macrofauna diversity and structure under different management of pine-coffee agroforestry system *journal of degraded and mining lands management issn: 2339-076X (p); 2502-2458 (e), Volume 6, Number 3 (April 2019):1727-1736 DOI:10.15243/jdmlm.2019.063.1727*
- Chokri H, Ahmed D, and Chedly A, (2014) “Potassium Deficiency in Plants: Effects and Signaling Cascades,” *Acta Physiologies Plant arum* 36, no. 5(May 1, 2014): 1055–70,
- Dishan, E. E., Tella I. O. and Adaeze, J. E. (2018). Macro Fauna Species Diversity and Distribution under the Influence of Siltation and Solid Waste Effluents along River Benue Bank, Adamawa State, Nigeria. *Journal of Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development* (JOFESD). VOL. 4 No. 1. Pp 1-10. ISSN: 2449-1845.
- Dominati, E., Patterson, M., and Mackay, A. (2010). Response to Robinson and Lebron— Learning from complementary approaches to soil natural capital and ecosystem services. *Ecological Economics*, 70(2), 139-140.
- Effi ,T, Uri ,S ,Yechezkel, M. and Alon, BG.(2011) Long term growth, water comsumption and yield of date palm as a function of salinity. *Journal of agricultural water management* 99(1)128-134.
- Elamin A.H Elsadig ,E.H .Alijubouri,H.J ,Gafar ,M.D (2017) Improving fruit quality and yield of khenazi date palm (phoenix dactylifera L) growth in sany soil by application of nitrogen ,phosphorus, potassium and organic matter .*international journal of development and sustainability* 6 (8)862
- FAO, (2012). Performance of the FAO AquaCrop model for wheat grain yield and soil moisture simulation in Western Canada. *Agricultural Water Management*, 110, 16-24.- 875.
- Geographical Information System (2021) GIS Laboratory, Geography Department Modibbo Adama University, Yola Adamawa State Nigeria.

Gholami, S., Sheikhmohamadi, B. and Sayad, E. (2017). Spatial relationship between soil macrofauna biodiversity and trees in Zagros forests, Iran. *CATENA*. 159. 1-8. [10.1016/j.catena.2017.07.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.catena.2017.07.021).

Kabir, M. A. (2020). Evaluation of Biodiversity Status and the Supporting Systems in Relation to Socio-Economic Characteristics in Lakeshore Communities of Kainji Lake National Park, Nigeria. An Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Submitted to the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Modibbo Adamma University , Yola. (MAUTECH).

Khodashenas, A., Koochehi, A., Rezvani Moghaddam, P., and Lakzian, A., (2012). Evaluation of structural biodiversity in natural systems of arid and semiarid regions: 1- Soil characteristic and biodiversity. *Journal of Natural Environment* 65(2): 165-173

Korboulewsky, N., Perez, G., and Chauvat, M. (2016). How tree diversity affects soil fauna diversity: a review. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 94, 94-106. *Journal of Natural Environment* 65(2): 165-173.

Merlim, A.O (2015). Soil in macrofauna in preserved and degraded araucaria ecosystems in the State Park of Campos de Jordao, Master Thesis, Ecology and Agro-ecosystem, São Paulo University, Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil.

Moura, E.G, Aguiar, A.C.F, Piedade, A.R, and Rousseau, G.X (2015). Contribution of legume tree residues and macrofauna to the improvement of abiotic soil properties in the eastern Amazon. *Journal of Applied Soil Ecology*. doi: [10.1016/j.apsoil.2014.10.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsoil.2014.10.008).

[Olivares B, Rey JC, Lobo D, Navas-Cortés JA, Gómez JA, Landa BB. 2021. Fusarium Wilt of Bananas: A Review of Agro-Environmental Factors in the Venezuelan Production System Affecting Its Development. Agronomy, 11\(5\):986. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy11050986>](#)

[Olivares, B. 2016. Description of soil management in agricultural production systems in the Hamaca sector of Anzoátegui, Venezuela. La Granja: Revista de Ciencias de la Vida. 23\(1\): 14–24. <https://doi.org/10.17163/lgr.n23.2016.02>](#)

[Olivares, B., Araya-Alman, M., Acevedo-Opazo, C. et al. 2020. Relationship Between Soil Properties and Banana Productivity in the Two Main Cultivation Areas in Venezuela. J Soil Sci Plant Nutr. 20 \(3\): 2512-2524. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42729-020-00317-8>](#)

[Olivares, B., Paredes, F., Rey, J., Lobo, D., Galvis-Causil, S. 2021. The relationship between the normalized difference vegetation index, rainfall, and potential evapotranspiration in a](#)

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: Spanish (International Sort)

[banana plantation of Venezuela. SAINS TANAH - Journal of Soil Science and Agroclimatology, 18\(1\), 58-64. http://dx.doi.org/10.20961/stjssa.v18i1.50379](#)

[Olivares, B.; Hernandez, R.; Arias, A; Molina, J.C., Pereira, Y. 2020. Eco-territorial adaptability of tomato crops for sustainable agricultural production in Carabobo, Venezuela. Idesia, 38\(2\):95-102. http://dx.doi.org/10.4067/S0718-34292020000200095](#)

[Olivares, B.O., Calero, J., Rey, J.C., Lobo, D., Landa, B.B., Gómez, J. A. \(2022\). Correlation of banana productivity levels and soil morphological properties using regularized optimal scaling regression. Catena, 208: 105718. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.catena.2021.105718](#)

Salazar, J.C.S., Bautista, E.H.D. and Patino, G.R. (2015). Soil macrofauna associated to agroforestry systems in Colombian Amazon. *Journal Soil Science: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Biochemistry and Hydrology*. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15446/acag.v64n3.43488>

Schelfhout, S., Mertens, J., Verheyen, K., Vesterdal, L., Baeten, L., Muys, B., and De Schrijver, A. (2017). Tree species identity shapes earthworm communities. *Forests*, 8(3), 85.

Siqueira G.M., Silva, E.F.F. and Paz-Ferreiro, J. (2014). Land use intensification effects in soil arthropod community of an Entisol in Pernambuco state, Brazil. *The Scientific World Journal: 1-7*. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/625856>

Sisay, M. and Ketema, H. (2015). Variation in abundance and diversity of soil invertebrate macro-fauna and some soil quality indicators under agroforestry based conservation tillage and maize-based conventional tillage in Southern Ethiopia. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development* 2(8): pp100-107.

Toana, M.H., Mudjiono, G., Karindah, S. and Abadi, A.L. (2014). The diversity of arthropods on cocoa plantation in three strata of a shade tree. *Agrivita Journal of Agricultural Science* 36:pp 120-127

[Velasquez, E., & Lavelle, P. \(2019\). Soil macrofauna as an indicator for evaluating soil based ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes. *Acta Oecologica*, 100, 103446. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actao.2019.103446](#)

[Wu, P., & Wang, C. \(2019\). Differences in spatiotemporal dynamics between soil macrofauna and mesofauna communities in forest ecosystems: the significance for soil fauna diversity monitoring. *Geoderma*, 337, 266-272. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2018.09.031](#)

Yager, G.O, Agbideye, F.S, and Adma, E, S. (2017) insect species diversity and abundances in and around Federal University of Agriculture, Makudi forestry Nursery. Benue state, Nigeria. *Asia journal of biology* 4(4)pp 1-11, article no.AJOB 38840 ISSN 2456-7124.

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0", Hanging: 0.5",
Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Formatted: Spanish (International Sort)

Field Code Changed

Formatted: Spanish (International Sort)

Formatted: Font: Italic, Pattern: Clear

Formatted: No underline, English (U.S.)

Formatted: No underline, Font color: Auto,
English (U.S.)

Field Code Changed

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: No underline, Font color: Auto,
English (U.S.)

Formatted: Font: Not Italic, Font color:
Custom Color(RGB(34,34,34)), Portuguese
(Brazil), Pattern: Clear (White)