

Effects of Industrial Agriculture and Urbanization on Structure and Functional Organization of Macroinvertebrate of Coastal Streams in Cameroon

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Abstract

The impact of land use changes on watercourses is poorly documented in Cameroon. Therefore, this study examines the effects of agriculture and urbanization on water quality, the structure and functional organization of macroinvertebrates of streams in the coastal zone of Cameroon. Nine sampling stations including three per catchment area with different land occupations (agricultural, urban and forest) were selected. Benthic macroinvertebrates were sampled monthly from February to July 2018 and the physicochemical variables were measured simultaneously. The urban and agricultural streams showed highly polluted waters with high nutrient and suspended matter content, whereas the forest stream waters are moderately polluted. In addition, the hierarchical ascending classification indicated a proximity in water quality between the agricultural and forest streams for which the main physicochemical variables did not vary significantly. With regards to macroinvertebrates, the forest watercourse is characterized by the proliferation of pollution-sensitive taxa, high diversity indices and complex trophic structuring, indicating its good ecological status. In contrast the urban watercourse, heavily polluted is characterized by low diversity indices reflecting a simplification of the structure of stands dominated by the pollution-tolerant collector-gatherer stands. The majority of biological indices and functional feeding groups were not significantly different between the agricultural and forest streams, sug-

gesting a less pronounced impact of agriculture on macroinvertebrates. Our results showed that, riparian vegetation even though constituted of perennial crops, reduces the effects of agricultural inputs on streams and promotes the establishment of diversified macroinvertebrate communities.

Keywords

Industrial Agriculture, Urbanization, Macroinvertebrates, Water Quality, Riparian Vegetation, Perennial Crops

1. Introduction

Changes in land occupation are manifested by the gradual replacement of natural areas by agricultural areas [1], by the extension of artificial surfaces and associated infrastructures through urbanization [2]. These changes in land occupation have consequences on aquatic ecosystems, such as habitat fragmentation and the resulting effects on the viability of animal and plant population evolving in these habitats [3].

In industrialized countries, the impact of agriculture, urbanization, industrialization and poor waste management on aquatic environments are well documented [4] [5] [6] [7]. In Cameroon, on the other hand, studies are very patchy, with most of the work carried out so far having been limited to assessing the effects of urbanization on streams [8]-[13]. So far, no study has been devoted to assessing the effects of industrial agriculture on the ecological integrity of streams. Therefore, the present study was tackled under a comparative approach, which makes it possible to distinguish between the effect of industrial agriculture on watercourses and the effect of urbanization.

In this study, physico-chemical parameters of water and macro-invertebrates were used as indicators because of their predictable responses to changes in the catchment area [14] [15] [16]. Physico-chemical analyses provide information on the concentration of pollutants in a hydrosystem and thereby evaluating the environment capacity to host biocenosis. Among the freshwater biota, macroinvertebrates are good tools for stream monitoring because they occupy a wide range of trophic levels and are pollution tolerant, providing solid information for the interpretation of cumulative effects due to exposure to pollutants and their secondary life style makes it possible to reflect the local conditions of the environment, and to give a significant image of the quality of the habitat over time [17] [18].

The main objective of this study is to assess the effects of industrial agriculture and urbanization on the assemblages and functional organization of macroinvertebrates in two streams (Ekouma and Tongo'o Bassa) using a forest stream (Miana) in the same ecological region as a reference. The specific objectives of this study are: 1) to determine the effects of industrial agriculture and urbanisation on stream water quality; 2) to identify the differences in macroinvertebrate

community structures using biological indices and functional feeding groups between agricultural, urbanized and forest streams; 3) to establish relationships between biological indicators, functional feeding groups and water quality.

2. Methods

2.1. Study Area and Sampling Stations

Investigations were carried out in three streams (Miana, Ekouma, Tongo'o Basa) located in the administrative zone of Littoral Region in Cameroon. Littoral Region has an equatorial climate of Guinean type and Cameroonian coastal sub-type, with an annual average precipitation of about 4000 mm [19]. This climate has two main seasons, a long rainy season from March to November and short dry season from December to February. Temperatures vary between 23°C to 33.5°C with a monthly average of about 28°C [19]. **Table 1** presents the characteristics of sampling stations.

The Miana stream is located in the district of Yabassi. Yabassi is one of the least populated districts in the Littoral region with 4.77 inhabitants per km² and 85% of its surface area occupied by a dense primary forest composed of large trees. The main human activity in Yabassi is subsistence farming. Three sampling stations coded M1, M2 and M3 were positioned respectively in the upper, middle and lower sections of the Miana stream (**Figure 1**).

The Ekouma stream, located in the Njombe-Penja district which covers a surface area of about 260 km². The population density in Njombe-Penja is 139.57 inhabitants per km². The Ekouma watershed is mainly characterized by the presence of industrial plantations such as the "Plantation du Haut Penja" (PHP) which covers a surface area of about 70 Km². These industries mainly grow desert bananas, rubber, pineapple, flowers and white pepper and using chemical

Table 1. Characteristics of the sampling stations.

Catchment attribute	Land use	Latitude N	Longitude E	Altitude (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Dominant Substrate
<i>Miana</i>							
M1	Forest	4°33'35.20"	9°58'05.46"	71	1.51	0.22	Sand, gravel
M2	Forest	4°30'40.80"	9°57'24.68"	34	3.44	0.33	Sand, Sand
M3	Forest	4°30'14.05"	9°54'16.86"	19	9.23	1.12	Sand, Mud
<i>Ekouma</i>							
E1	Agriculture	4°38'44.21"	9°40'32.35"	154	2.87	1	Pebble, Mud
E2	Agriculture	4°37'17.03"	9°41'35.62"	111	4.78	1.4	Boulders, sand
E3	Agriculture	4°36'10.26"	9°41'11.90"	106	15.13	1.85	Sand, Mud
<i>Tongo'o Basa</i>							
T1	Urban	4°2'42.50"	9°43'47.11"	17	2.8	0.48	Sand, Mud
T2	Urban	4°3'52.00"	9°44'6.55"	11	12.5	0.81	Sand, Mud
T3	Urban	4°5'13.96"	9°43'21.90"	2	13.59	1.62	Sand, Mud

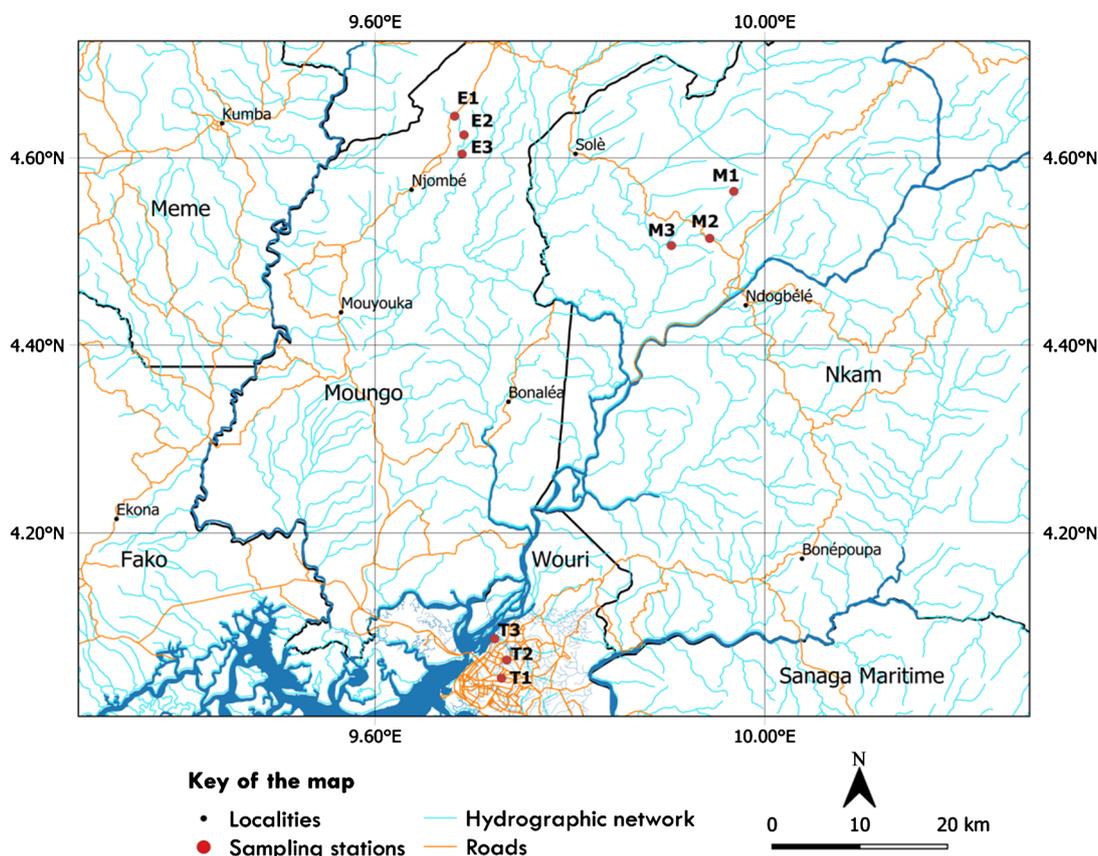


Figure 1. Map of the study area showing the different sampling stations.

fertilizers and pesticides. In the Ekouma stream, three sampling stations were also chosen (E1, E2 and E3) and located respectively in the upper, middle and lower sections of the stream (**Figure 1**).

The Tongo'o Bassa is the largest watershed among the 12 that make up the city of Douala. The harbor city of Douala is characterized by a fast and anarchistic urbanization, an increasingly demography (3033.59 inhabitants per km²), and an industrial sector in full expansion that generate wastewaters which are discharged into streams without any preliminary treatment. The Tongo'o Bassa catchment area is occupied by very unstructured neighbourhoods and is characterized by the presence of several markets and chemical food processing, textile and brewing industries. Three sampling stations were positioned on the Tongo'o Bassa stream: T1, T2 and T3 located respectively in the upper, middle and lower sections of the stream (**Figure 1**).

2.2. Physicochemical Analyses

Measurements of the physicochemical parameters were carried out monthly at each site from February to July 2018, between 6:00am and 9:00am, following the recommendations of Rodier *et al.* [20]. Physicochemical parameters like Water temperature (T), pH, Electrical conductivity (EC) and Dissolved oxygen (DO) were measured on site with a HANNA HI 9829 multi-parameter, because they

are likely to change on transit to the laboratory. For physicochemical laboratory analyses, after the sampling in a pre-clean double-capped polyethylene bottle of 250 ml, water was preserved in refrigerated conditions at 4°C until variables such as Turbidity (Turb), Suspended Solids (SS), Orthophosphate (PO₄), Ammonium (NH₄) and Nitrite (NO₂) were measured in the laboratory, using a HACH DR/3900 spectrophotometer. Organic pollution was assessed using the Organic Pollution Index (OPI) which was calculated based of three ion concentrations (NH₄, NO₂, and PO₄) [21].

2.3. Macroinvertebrates Sampling, Metrics and Indices

Benthic macroinvertebrates were collected at each sampling station once a month between February and July, following protocols described by Starck *et al.* [22]. A long-handled kick net (30 cm × 30 cm side, 400-µm mesh size and 45 cm of depth) was used in all the microhabitats (leaf packs, branches, macrophyte beds, sand, mud, pebble and rafts) of each sampling station. At each sampling station, macroinvertebrates were collected over a surface area of 6 m² by making 20 drags of the kick net in all available micro-habitats, each drag consisted of pulling the net over a distance of approximately 1 m, *i.e.* a surface area of 0.3 m² for each drag. The collected macroinvertebrates were fixed with 70% ethanol and preserved in the plastic bottles. In laboratory, for each station, the animals were identified to the lowest possible taxonomic level under a stereomicroscope, with the use of appropriate taxonomic keys proposed by De Moor *et al.* [23], De Moor *et al.* [24], Tachet *et al.* [25] and Tachet *et al.* [26].

2.4. Data Analyses

The ecological integrity of the three studied streams was assessed by calculating 18 indices on the basis on abundances and taxonomic richness of macroinvertebrates, *i.e.*: 11 community structure indices, 5 functional feeding groups (FFG) and 2 diversity indices.

The community structure indices used in this study were: total number of individuals (TA); total taxa richness (S); Ephemeroptera-Plecoptera-Trichoptera (S-EPT), Plecoptera-Odonata-Ephemeroptera-Trichoptera (S-POET) and Diptera (S-Dip) taxa richness; relative EPT abundance (%-EPT); relative abundance of Insecta (%-Ins); relative abundance of Chironomidae (%-Chir), relative abundance of Non Diptera Insecta (%-N-Dip-Ins), relative abundance of Diptera (%-Dip) and relative abundance of Oligochaeta (%-Olig).

Concerning FFG, we used the classifications made by Mandaville [27], Cummins *et al.* [28] and Thorp and Covich [29] based on the mechanisms of obtaining food and the particle size of the food eaten to assign each organism identified to one of the five functional feeding groups (FFG): shredders (shr), scrapers (scr), collector-gatherers (c-g), collectors-filterers (c-f) and predators (prd). This functional approach examines changes in the trophic structure of the macroinvertebrate community of each ecological section of the watercourses.

Lastly, two biodiversity indices (Shannon-Weaver's diversity index and the Pielou's evenness) were calculated, so as to highlight the numerical importance of taxa.

Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (HCA) was used to classify the sampling stations according to the physicochemical water quality of the 54 water samples collected during the 6-month study period. The physicochemical variables of the different clusters obtained by the HCA were compared using the Kruskal-Wallis test, after a study of the normality of the data by the Shapiro Wilk test. Assuming that abiotic water variables structure aquatic stands, statistical differences between macroinvertebrate indices of clusters identified by HCA were investigated using the Kruskal-Wallis test, after a study of the normality of the data by the Shapiro Wilk test. Potential links between physicochemical parameters and macroinvertebrate indices were searched using Pearson correlation test and Canonical Redundancy Analysis (RDA). The statistical analyses were carried out using the XLSTAT 2014 software.

3. Results

3.1. Water Quality

The HCA grouped the 54 water samples collected during the study into 3 clusters based on the physicochemical variables (**Figure 2**). Cluster I is composed of the 18 samples collected from the Tongo'o Bassa urban stream. Cluster II is made up of the 18 water samples from the forest stream Miana and cluster III is made up of the 18 water samples from the agricultural stream Ekouma.

Cluster II (Miana) groups globally the least polluted stations (moderate organic pollution) with less warm, well oxygenated, low mineralization and low organic matter (higher OPI) waters. Temperature and electrical conductivity

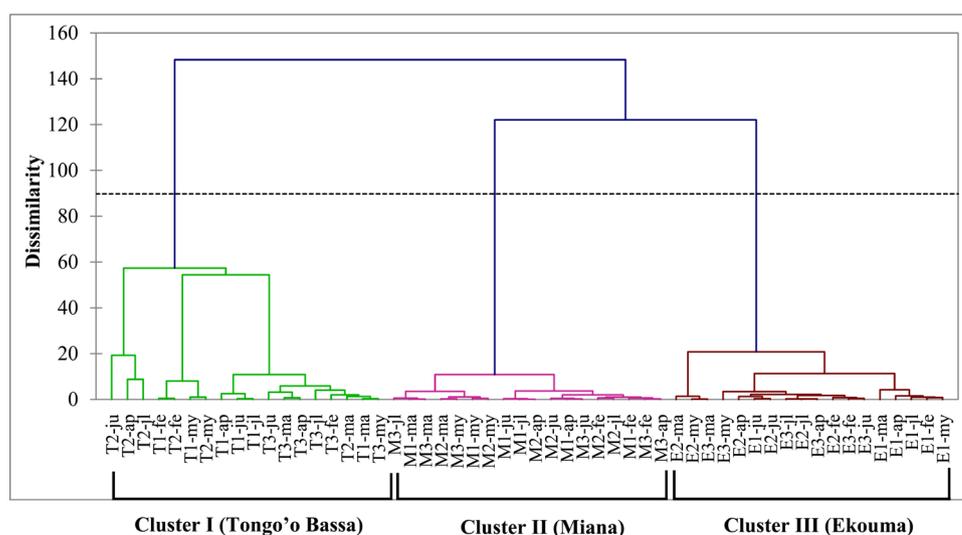


Figure 2. Classification of the sampling sites according to the physicochemical quality of the water of the 54 water samples collected during the 6 months of the study through a hierarchical cluster analysis, using the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity method (fe, ma, ap, my, ju and jl represent respectively sampling months February, March, April May, June and July).

were significantly lower in Miana, while dissolved oxygen was significantly higher (Table 2). Cluster I, which comprises stations of the Tongo'o Bassa urban watercourse, had heavily polluted waters, with high turbidity, high organic matter loadings (lowest OPI) and low dissolved oxygen concentrations. Thus, values for turbidity, suspended solids, ammonium and orthophosphates are significantly higher in Tongo'o Bassa than in Miana and Ekouma (Table 2). Cluster III, which includes all the samples from the Ekouma agricultural stream, shows waters with significantly higher mineralization and an intermediate quality between that of the Miana and Tongo'o Bassa. In addition, the Kruskal-Wallis test revealed a certain proximity of water quality between the forest stream Miana and the agricultural stream Ekouma (Table 2).

3.2. Macroinvertebrates Communities' Structure

A total of 2562 macroinvertebrate individuals were collected from the three streams studied. They were divided into 50 taxa and grouped in 3 phyla (37 Arthropods, 7 Annelids, 6 Molluscs). 18 taxa have been identified at the species level, 28 taxa at the genus level and 4 taxa at the family level. The total taxonomic richness during the study in the Miana, Ekouma and Tongo'o Bassa streams were 16, 29 and 28 taxa respectively. In the Ekouma agricultural stream, no EPT taxa were inventoried, whereas in the Tongo'o Bassa and Miana streams, the number of EPT families recorded was 1 and 8 respectively. Thus, S-EPT is significantly higher in the forest stream Miana (Table 3).

Similarly, S-POET was significantly higher in Miana than in Tongo'o Bassa and Ekouma. S-EPT and S-POET did not differ significantly between Tongo'o Bassa and the Ekouma streams (Table 3). S-Dip, was significantly higher in Tongo'o Bassa, but does not differ statistically between Miana and Ekouma (Table 3).

Table 2. The status of water quality for cluster I, II and III derived from HCA.

Physicochemical parameters	Clusters			K-W
	I (Tongo'o bassa)	II (Miana)	III (Ekouma)	
T	26.92 ± 2.10 ^a	19.82 ± 1.26 ^b	27.24 ± 0.73 ^{ca}	35.40
pH	6.76 ± 0.2 ^a	6.93 ± 0.49 ^{ba}	7.68 ± 0.49 ^c	23.31
DO	52.00 ± 10.26 ^a	64.11 ± 1.63 ^b	26.77 ± 25.51 ^{ca}	20.66
EC	341.46 ± 132.53 ^a	23.04 ± 3.27 ^b	5381 ± 1207.71 ^c	47.13
SS	28.39 ± 28.50 ^a	6.72 ± 6.78 ^b	9.78 ± 7.13 ^{cb}	18.69
Turb	34.28 ± 25.19 ^a	2.61 ± 3.31 ^b	9.83 ± 10.35 ^{cb}	25.31
NO ₂	1.19 ± 1.98 ^a	0.02 ± 0.02 ^b	0.66 ± 0.34 ^{ca}	23.01
PO ₄	4.49 ± 5.16 ^a	0.79 ± 0.68 ^b	0.17 ± 0.13 ^{cb}	25.47
NH ₄	4.05 ± 2.11 ^a	0.2 ± 0.16 ^b	0.1 ± 0.15 ^{cb}	37.40
IPO	2.06 ± 0.72 ^a	3.41 ± 0.59 ^b	2.96 ± 0.44 ^{cb}	25.60

Values represent mean ± standard deviation. ^{a,b,c}Differences among the three clusters as tested with the Kruskal-Wallis test. Values with different superscripts indicate significant differences. $p < 0.05$.

Table 3. Macroinvertebrate indices for cluster I, II and III derived from HCA analysis. Values represent mean \pm standard deviation. Kruskal-Wallis (K-W) tests were used to evaluate differences among the three clusters.

Metric	Cluster			K-W
	I (Tongo'o Bassa)	II (Miana)	III (Ekouma)	
<i>Community structure Indices</i>				
S	6.5 \pm 2.36 ^a	7.44 \pm 1.65 ^{b,a}	5.11 \pm 1.81 ^{c,a}	11.65
S-EPT	0.06 \pm 0.24 ^a	1.67 \pm 1.19 ^b	0 ^{c,a}	33.58
S-POET	0.39 \pm 0.61 ^a	2.67 \pm 1.57 ^b	1.06 \pm 0.73 ^{c,a}	23.06
S-Dip	1.44 \pm 0.62 ^a	0.06 \pm 0.24 ^b	0 ^{c,b}	47.82
TA	77.33 \pm 45.66 ^a	28.28 \pm 12.36 ^b	36.72 \pm 15.98 ^{c,b}	20.91
%-EPT	0.19 \pm 0.83 ^a	17.17 \pm 19.31 ^b	0 ^{c,a}	33.83
%-Ins	50.55 \pm 25.89 ^a	48.41 \pm 20.80 ^{b,a}	19.19 \pm 20.29 ^c	18.60
%-N-Dip-Ins	10.01 \pm 14.81 ^a	48.32 \pm 20.69 ^b	19.19 \pm 20.29 ^{c,a}	24.32
%-Dip	40.54 \pm 27.31 ^a	0.09 \pm 0.39 ^b	0 ^{c,b}	48.61
%-Chir	38.81 \pm 27.49 ^a	0 ^b	0 ^{c,b}	50.22
%-Olig	8.04 \pm 11.34 ^a	0.09 \pm 0.39 ^b	0 ^{c,b}	20.94
<i>Diversity indices</i>				
H'	1.83 \pm 0.77 ^a	2.29 \pm 0.39 ^b	1.63 \pm 0.47 ^{c,a}	13.72
J	0.68 \pm 0.2	0.8 \pm 0.10	0.73 \pm 0.13	
<i>Functional feeding groups</i>				
%-Shredders	1.53 \pm 2.93 ^a	20.91 \pm 13.03 ^b	37.07 \pm 31.38 ^{c,b}	18.98
%-Scrapers	1.3 \pm 2.95 ^a	22.64 \pm 26.57 ^b	36.06 \pm 39.57 ^{c,b}	16.99
%-Collectors-gatherers	86.06 \pm 16.33 ^a	17.01 \pm 18.50 ^b	5.91 \pm 10.72 ^{c,b}	37.59
%-Collectors-filterers	0.77 \pm 1.77	0.28 \pm 1.18	2.12 \pm 4.35	
%-Predators	10.35 \pm 12.07 ^a	39.16 \pm 19.58 ^b	18.69 \pm 19.94 ^{c,a}	20.43

Values with different superscripts (a, b, c) indicate significant differences. $p < 0.05$.

In terms of abundance, the urban Tongo'o Bassa stream has the highest total abundance (1392 individuals), with a strong proliferation of pollution-tolerant taxa such as *Chironomus* sp. (Chironomidae; 41.31%) and *Physa acuta* (Physidae; 28.88%). In the agricultural stream Ekouma (661 individuals), *Caridina africana* (Atyidae; 36.16%), *Biomphalaria pfeifferi* (Planorbidae; 16.49%), *Melanoides tuberculata* (Melaniidae; 12.71%) and *Cleopatra* sp. (Thiaridae; 10.29%) were the dominant taxa. In the forest stream Miana (509 individuals), *Cleopatra* sp. (Thiaridae; 23.38%), *Lymnaea natalensis* (Lymnaeidae; 12.57%), *Caridina africana* (Atyidae; 11.59%) and *Neoperla spio* (Perlidae; 10.81%) constituted the main part of the stand. %-EPT and %-N-Dip-Ins are statistically higher in the forest stream Miana than in the anthropized Tongo'o Bassa and agricultural stream Ekouma (Table 3). In contrast, %-Chir, %-Olig and %-Dip were significantly higher in the urban Tongo'o Bassa stream, but did not differ statistically

between the Miana and the Ekouma (Table 3). In addition, Chironomidae and Oligochaeta were not recorded in the agricultural stream Ekouma. Similarly, no Chironomidae were recorded in the forest stream Miana.

The Shannon and Weaver diversity index (H') was significantly higher in the Miana forested stream (2.29 ± 0.39 bits/ind.), whereas in the Ekouma agricultural stream, lowest values of this index were noted (1.64 ± 0.47 bits/ind) (Table 3). In the urban stream Tongo'o Bassa, the H' value is 1.83 ± 0.77 bits/ind. Even though not varying statistically from one stream to another, the J index revealed a better distribution of individuals within the stands of the Miana forest stream (0.80 ± 0.10). J values in the Ekouma (0.73 ± 0.13) and Tongo'o Bassa streams (0.69 ± 0.20) (Table 3), reflected a poorer distribution of individuals within the taxa of these two anthropised streams.

3.3. Distribution of FFG According to the Longitudinal Zonation of Watercourses

The contributions of FFG to the macroinvertebrate community as a function of the longitudinal zonation (upper, middle and lower streams) of the Miana, Ekouma and Tongo'o Bassa streams are shown in Figure 3. In each of the sections, a simplification of the trophic structure of macroinvertebrates was observed with increasing pollution. In the superior section, if at M1 (Miana), shredders, scrapers, collector-gatherers and predators can be distinguished with

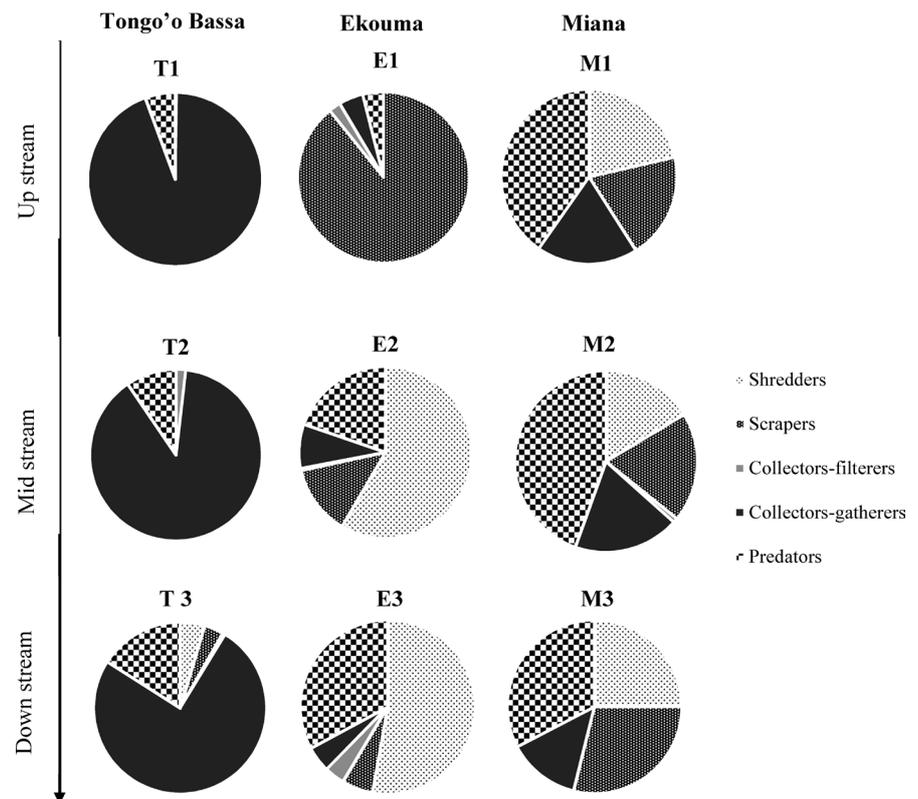


Figure 3. Relative contribution of trophic functional groups to benthic macroinvertebrate communities as a function of the longitudinal zonation of the rivers studied.

relative abundances of $21.39\% \pm 15.92\%$, $19.61\% \pm 25.02\%$, $18.70\% \pm 22.81\%$ and $40.30\% \pm 19.66\%$ respectively, in stations E1 (Ekouma) and T1 (Tongo'o Bassa) one trophic group is largely preponderant. These involve scrapers ($89.25\% \pm 10.76\%$) at station E1 and collector-gatherers ($94.14\% \pm 70\%$) at station T1. In their middle section, the Miana (M2) and Ekouma (E2) are dominated respectively by predators ($44.55\% \pm 22.49\%$) and shredders ($58.40\% \pm 20.37\%$). Other FFG can be distinguished in these two streams. Involving shredders ($16.35\% \pm 10.33\%$), scrapers ($19.47\% \pm 25.40\%$) and collector-gatherers ($18.80\% \pm 17.76\%$) in the Miana, while in the Ekouma they are scrapers ($13.17\% \pm 7.47\%$), collector-gatherers ($8.33\% \pm 17.04\%$) and predators ($19.70\% \pm 12.37\%$). Station T2 of the middle Tongo'o Bassa River is largely dominated by collector-gatherers ($88.70\% \pm 9.69\%$). In the lower sections, in the Miana station (M3), individuals are mainly distributed in four FFG with relatively similar abundances: shredders ($24.99\% \pm 13.09\%$), scrapers ($28.85\% \pm 32.56\%$), collector-gatherers ($13.52\% \pm 17.48\%$) and predators ($32.64\% \pm 18.01\%$). At E3 (Ekouma), shredders ($52.81\% \pm 21.00\%$) and predators ($32.90\% \pm 26.25\%$) dominate the macroinvertebrates, while at T3 (Tongo'o Bassa), collector-gatherers ($75.34\% \pm 22.93\%$) dominate. In the three land-use catchment areas, collector-gatherers are essentially dominated by *Lymnaea natalensis* (Lymnaeidae), *Physa acuta* (Physidae), and *Chironomus* sp. (Chironomidae), while the shredders are dominated mainly by *Caridina africana* (Atyidae) and predators are mainly composed of Odonata (*Bratinopyga* sp., *Ictinogomphus ferox*, *Somatochlora pro parte*, *Cordulegaster* sp. *Coenagrion pro parte*) and Hemiptera (*Gerris* sp., *Ranatra linearis*, *Ilyocoris cimicoides*, *Plea* sp., *Rhagovelia reitteri*).

Overall, collector-gatherers dominated significantly in Tongo'o Bassa urban stream where they represent $86.06\% \pm 16.33\%$ of benthic macroinvertebrates (Table 3). The scrapers and shredders comprised a significantly greater percentage at Ekouma agricultural stream than in Tongo'o Bassa urban stream, while predators, scrapers and shredders had a significantly greater percentage at Miana than in Tongo'o Bassa stream (Table 3).

3.4. Relationships between Water Quality and Macroinvertebrate Metrics

The main correlations between physicochemical parameters and macroinvertebrate indices are summarized in Table 4.

DO was positively and significantly ($p < 0.01$) correlated with S, S-EPT, S-POET, %-EPT and %-Ins. NH_4 was negatively and significantly ($p < 0.01$) linked with S-EPT, S-POET, %-N-Dip-Ins, %-Shr, %-scr and %-prd, but positively and significantly ($p < 0.01$) correlated with TA, S-Dip, %-Chir, %-Olig, %-Dip and %-c-g. The same, NO_2 showed negative and significant ($p < 0.05$) correlations with S-EPT, but positive and significant ($p < 0.01$) correlations with S-Dip, %-Chir and %-Dip. PO_4 only showed positive and significant ($p < 0.01$) correlations with S-Dip, %-Chir, %-Olig, %-Dip and %-c-g. Turbidity showed negative and significant correlations with indicators of good water quality such

Table 4. Pearson's correlation coefficient between the physicochemical variables and biological metrics. Significant correlation (*: $p < 0.05$; **: $p < 0.01$) are indicated by asterisk.

Variables	T	pH	DO	EC	SS	Tur	NO ₂	PO ₄	NH ₄	OPI
S	-0.281*	-0.129	0.355**	-0.423**	0.086	0.174	-0.033	0.087	0.041	0.039
TA	0.329*	-0.180	0.060	-0.175	0.117	0.330*	0.250	0.218	0.597**	-0.455**
H ⁺	-0.312*	-0.199	0.267	-0.319*	0.006	0.024	-0.148	0.014	-0.078	0.203
S-EPT	-0.722**	-0.069	0.402**	-0.412**	-0.194	-0.318*	-0.277*	-0.116	-0.300*	0.393**
S-POET	-0.668**	0.127	0.271*	-0.227	-0.296*	-0.364**	-0.251	-0.201	-0.437**	0.461**
S-Dip	0.383**	-0.380**	0.108	-0.403**	0.632**	0.781**	0.293*	0.471**	0.679*	-0.577**
%-EPT	-0.581**	-0.070	0.324*	-0.318*	-0.135	-0.247	-0.214	-0.084	-0.233	0.265
%-Ins	-0.282*	-0.358**	0.332*	-0.579**	0.114	0.061	0.113	0.173	0.244	-0.137
%-Chir	0.245	-0.409**	0.173	-0.341*	0.365**	0.392**	0.349**	0.387**	0.621**	-0.542**
%-N-Dip-Ins	-0.557**	0.035	0.183	-0.269*	-0.277*	-0.361**	-0.235	-0.216	-0.372**	0.405**
%-Olig	0.211	-0.169	0.023	-0.218	0.214	0.303*	0.160	0.386**	0.423**	-0.399**
%-Dip	0.256	-0.417**	0.170	-0.348**	0.399**	0.426**	0.356**	0.400**	0.632**	-0.551**
%-shr	0.028	0.589**	-0.183	0.326*	-0.209	-0.206	-0.130	-0.323*	-0.470**	0.259
%-scr	-0.097	0.063	-0.204	0.497**	-0.228	-0.335*	-0.115	-0.257	-0.373**	0.336
%-c-g	0.283*	-0.457**	0.216	-0.500**	0.415**	0.545**	0.265	0.494**	0.782**	-0.619**
%-c-f	0.164	0.204	0.057	0.304*	0.210	0.262	-0.019	0.039	-0.146	0.010
%-prd	-0.438**	0.042	0.106	-0.217	-0.221	-0.315	-0.170	-0.169	-0.337*	0.353**

as S-EPT ($p < 0.05$), S-POET ($p < 0.01$) and %-N-Dip-Ins ($p < 0.01$), while the correlations between turbidity and polluted water indicators (S-Dip, %-Chir, %-Olig, %-Dip and %-c-g) were positive and significant ($p < 0.01$). At the opposite, OPI, showed positive and significant ($p < 0.01$) correlations with indicators of good water quality such as S-EPT, S-POET and %-N-Dip-Ins, but negative and significant ($p < 0.01$) correlation with polluted water indicators (S-Dip, %-Chir, %-Olig, %-Dip and %-c-g). Except for S-EPT and scr, SS showed significant correlations with the same metrics as turbidity. The temperature, negatively and significantly correlated with S ($p < 0.05$); H⁺ ($p < 0.05$), S-EPT ($p < 0.01$), S-POET ($p < 0.01$), %-EPT ($p < 0.01$), %-Ins ($p < 0.05$), %-N-Dip-Ins ($p < 0.01$) and %-prd ($p < 0.01$), was positively and significantly correlated with TA ($p < 0.05$), S-Dip ($p < 0.01$) and %-c-g ($p < 0.05$). Except for shr, c-f and scr with which EC is positively and significantly correlated, all other significant correlations established between EC and macroinvertebrate metrics were negative.

The Redundancy analysis results (Figure 4) revealed that the relationships between the macroinvertebrate indices and the physicochemical variables of the sampled stations are explained by the first two axes (F1 = 69.93%; F2 = 17.48%) which accounts for 87.41% of the information (Figure 4). According to the first axis (F1), the Tongo'o Bassa stations are characterized by high concentrations of ammonium, orthophosphates and high turbidity, which are favourable for the

banisation on the Tongo'o Bassa urban watercourse is pronounced. The lack of vegetation in the Tongo'o Bassa catchment area, coupled with the discharge of untreated domestic, municipal and industrial wastewater seems to be responsible for the high concentrations of suspended solids, nutrients and organic matter. Hepp *et al.* [31], Tchakonté *et al.* [9] and Tchakonté *et al.* [10], in their studies carried out respectively in urban rivers in Brazil and Cameroon, implied that the same discharges changes the water quality in urban streams.

4.2. Community Structure and Influence of Land Usage Types

The forest stream Miana showed the highest diversity indices (H' and J) and thus a better distribution of individuals within taxa. In contrast, the anthropised streams of Tongo'o Bassa and Ekouma showed lower diversity indices, indicating stands dominated by a small number of taxa. It is known that the destruction of riparian vegetation causes sediment discharge to watercourses, thus modifying their morphology, and the available substrates become more unstable and less complex, leading to a decrease in habitat diversity and trophic resources [15] [32]. For example, impacts in the urban Tongo'o Bassa stream, whose catchment area has been artificialized by the construction of urban infrastructures, are more exacerbated by various pollutants that are drained directly into the stream through runoffs. In the Ekouma stream, the impact of industrial agriculture on macroinvertebrates is less important because the perennial crops that occupy its watershed help to retain pollutants linked to the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Couceiro *et al.* [33] showed that deforestation and water pollution causes reduction in taxonomic abundance and a simplification of invertebrate communities. The results of the present study are similar to those obtained for other streams in the Araucanía Region, Chile [34] and for temporary streams in Oregon, USA [7].

The good ecological condition of the forest stream Miana is also highlighted by the preponderance of pollution-intolerant taxa such as EPT orders and non-Diptera Insects. Their pre-eminence in forest streams would be associated with the good oxygenation of their waters; hence, the positive and significant correlations between S-EPT, %-EPT, %-N-Dip-Ins and the high concentrations of dissolved oxygen. Our results corroborate those of Rios and Bailey [15] who showed that riparian vegetation increases the diversity of EPT taxa. However, the deterioration of the habitat quality of anthropised streams is demonstrated by the near absence of EPT taxa and Non-Diptera Insects, which are replaced by *Chironomus* sp. and *Physa acuta* in Tongo'o Bassa, and by *Caridina africana*, *Melanoïdes tuberculata* and *Biomphalaria pfeifferi* in the agricultural stream Ekouma. In fact, several studies have highlighted the role of the EPT orders as bioindicators of the good health of lotic hydrosystems [9] [35] [36], because the taxonomic richness and abundances of these animals decreases drastically in watersheds where urban pollutions are observed. In Tongo'o Bassa, high densities of *Chironomus* sp. and *Physa acuta* have been regarded as excellent bioindi-

cators of poor water quality, in which the increase in their density is in response to organic enrichment by anthropic actions [25] [37]. Positive and significant correlations have thus been obtained between %-Chir and organic matter indicators (Turb, NO₂, PO₄, and NH₄). However, in the Ekouma stream, the dominant *Caridina africana*, *Melanooides tuberculata* and *Biomphalaria pfeifferi* are not classified in the literature as either tolerant or intolerant taxa [38]. Mandaville [27] give them an intermediate tolerance, between tolerant and intolerant taxa. Our results are in line with those of Hepp *et al.* [31], who describe intermediate models of macroinvertebrate communities in Brazilian agricultural streams, which fall between forest and urban river models.

Dosskey *et al.* [39] showed that, changes in riparian vegetation alter the amount of organic material entering aquatic systems, subsequently modifying the trophic structure of aquatic food webs. Thus, organic pollution derived from anthropogenic activities and the absence of riparian vegetation would be responsible for the marked alteration of the trophic structure of macroinvertebrate communities in the urban Tongo'o Bassa stream, where collector-gatherers, whatever the ecological section considered, are clearly favoured to the detriment of shredders, scrappers and predators that dominate in the Ekouma agricultural and the Miana forest streams. Indeed, collector-gatherers, which are predominant in Tongo'o Bassa, generally proliferate in aquatic environments with high loads of decomposing organic matter [28]. The relatively high abundance of shredders and predators is a typical characteristic of streams within forested regions [16] [40]. The variances between the trophic structure of Tongo'o Bassa and the Miana forest stream revealed a clear disturbance in the functioning of this urban watercourse. On the other hand, the trophic structures of the Miana and Ekouma streams differ slightly, which shows a lesser alteration of the Ekouma agricultural watercourse. Several studies have highlighted ruptures in the ecological discontinuity of benthic invertebrates along the longitudinal profile of streams by human activities [16] [41] [42] [43].

5. Conclusions

Ecological monitoring of forest, urban and agricultural streams has contributed to the understanding of the effects of different land uses on the biodiversity in lotic ecosystems of Cameroon. Physicochemical analyses have shown that, the waters of the urban stream are highly polluted with high concentrations of NH₄, PO₄, NO₃ and SS. As regards the agricultural stream, although its waters are also highly loaded in organic matter, most of the values of the organic pollution parameters (Turb, OPI, SS, NH₄, PO₄) of this stream did not vary significantly from the values of the forest stream, whose waters are moderately loaded in organic matter. The macroinvertebrate communities of the forest stream are more diversified ($H' = 2.29 \pm 0.39$; $J = 0.8 \pm 0.10$), while that of agricultural ($H' = 1.83 \pm 0.77$; $J = 0.68 \pm 0.2$) and urban ($H' = 1.63 \pm 0.47$; $J = 0.73 \pm 0.13$) streams communities are less diversified. As regard to FFG, forest and agricultural streams

were dominated by 4 and 3 FFG respectively out of the 5 groups defined in this work. In the urban watercourse, only one FFG is widely represented with 86.06% of the individuals harvested.

Finally, the results of our study showed that the primary vegetation seems to support a good ecological status of forest streams with rich and diverse stands presenting a better distribution of individuals within taxa. In contrast, urban and agricultural impacts affect water quality and macroinvertebrates by reducing their diversity and simplifying their organizational and functional structures. However, while the impact of urbanisation on macroinvertebrates and water quality is more pronounced due to the artificialisation of watersheds that are completely deforested, the impact of agriculture on water quality and macroinvertebrates is less due to the presence of vegetation consisting of perennial crops that reduce the quantity of pollutants entering the watercourse.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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