

Abundance, biomass and diversity of soil macrofauna in savanna woodland and associated managed habitats.

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Abundance, biomass and diversity of soil macrofauna in savanna woodland and associated managed habitats

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Journal article : [Pedobiologia](#) 1990 Vol.34 No.2 pp.141-150 ref.34

Abstract : Soil macrofauna were sampled from natural savanna woodland (four managed habitat types: a maize field, fallow, disturbed miombo and be *Eucalyptus grandis*). Millipedes and beetle larvae had the largest biomass and were most abundant within the natural woodland. Canopy structure significantly influenced

population density and biomass of soil fauna with litter dwelling groups most spatial heterogeneity. Abundance and biomass beneath *Eucalyptus grandis* comparable with estimates for the natural woodland. Diversity was highest stand of disturbed miombo woodland. Maize cultivation significantly reduced populations of all groups with beetle larvae the only abundant taxa. Habitat on a small scale can affect the abundance and composition of the soil fauna. Retaining some heterogeneity in managed systems would keep areas of favourable habitat and maintain the abundance and diversity of soil fauna.

ISSN : [0031-4056](#)

Record Number : 19901946153

Language of text : [English](#)

Language of summary : [English](#)

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : *Zea mays*

Descriptor(s) : ecology, maize, Soil fauna

Identifier(s) : corn, subsaharan Africa

Geographical Location(s) : Africa South of Sahara, Zimbabwe

Broader term(s) : *Zea*, Poaceae, Poales, commelinids, monocotyledons, angiosperms

Spermatophyta, plants, eukaryotes, ACP Countries, Anglophone Africa, Africa, Countries of Africa, Commonwealth of Nations, Developing Countries, SADC Countries, Southern Africa, Africa South

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