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Abstract

This chapter introduces the diversity and community composition of macroinvertebrates occurring in wetlands with emphasis on the permanent and temporary wetlands in the Afrotropical region of the world. The chapter explores factors shaping the composition of macroinvertebrate communities of the permanent and temporary habitats, and the structuring role of dispersal mechanisms. The diversity and composition of macroinvertebrates is contrasted between different regions of the world and between permanent and temporary wetland types. Furthermore, the role of macroinvertebrates as indicators of habitat quality, ecosystem functions, and services provided by macroinvertebrates in wetlands is explored. Finally, the threats to macroinvertebrates in wetlands are highlighted.

Keywords: Macroinvertebrates; habitats; wetland