

Review of the master thesis by Miroslav Petruf entitled Bird Communities Along the Altitudinal Gradient on Mt. Cameroon: Perspectives from Mist Nets

Author analyses data on composition of bird communities obtained using standardised grand-level mist-netting between 2011 and 2017 at seven localities along altitudinal gradient from 0 to 2200 m a.s.l. at Mt. Cameroon. He uses standard descriptive approach to describe variation in species composition, density, circadian activity and detectability-related ecological behavioral and physiognomic traits of birds among different localities and, further, compares effectivity of sampling Afromontane bird communities using mist-netting and point-count method.

The topic follows up the well established project of the supervisor's research group and brings new and significant contribution to the community ecology of birds in the study area.

Overall, the thesis (158 pp., incl. Appendix) is very well elaborated, analytic approach and statistical methods used are sound and detailed, linguistic style (in most instances) quite clear and straightforward and literature cited (121 items) is properly selected and used. Discussion part is very well elaborated and includes not only conclusive parts focused on obtained results but also many valuable methodological suggestions for future research as well as information valuable for conservation purposes.

My comments and questions:

1. Did you contribute to collection of any part of the data you analyzed in your thesis?
2. Who was collecting point-counting data There is no information if the data were all the time collected by the same or different researchers. I am pretty sure there are very well experienced researchers familiar with local birds as well as much less experienced new members in the research team over the years and this may result in quite significant differences in determination skills (especially using vocal performance of birds for their location and identification).
3. My colleagues are using canopy mist-nets to effectively sample bat communities in different localities in the tropics. Why did not you use this approach?
4. Could you summarize number of localities (by continents) in the tropical areas where research at elevational gradient of similar extent as yours has been done so far?

Despite it is hard to believe (based on my long-term experience) that the thesis is the result of independent work of the MSc student I have no option than to evaluate it as excellent and fully sufficient for obtaining MSc degree.

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