

Distribution and diversity of freshwater gastropods in Edo State and the public health implication

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Abstract – A survey of gastropod composition, diversity and distribution was conducted in three different freshwater bodies (river, stream and pond/canal) in the Edo State, Nigeria, between 1999 and 2001. A total of 17 taxa from seven families, comprising 9,572 individuals were recorded in 57 freshwater bodies. There was a remarkable significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in general (species) diversity at all the stations. Water level, current velocity and conductivity were significantly different ($P < 0.01$) in the three intensively sampled stations. Gastropod occurrence varied with seasonal rainfall and physical and chemical factors of water bodies. *Bulinus (Physopsis) globosus* positively correlated ($P < 0.01$) with water turbidity and velocity while *Biomphalaria pfeiffere* and *Lymnaea natalensis* were negatively correlated ($P < 0.01$) with water turbidity and conductivity respectively.

Key words: diversity, distribution, freshwater gastropods, health.