

Biodiversity of Freshwater Shrimp of the Genus *Macrobrachium* (Decapoda Palaemonidae) in the Nyong Basin of Cameroon

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Abstract— The population of shrimps, especially the *Macrobrachium* genus, has been affected with habitat pollution and overexploitation. Shrimps provide a major protein source to animals higher in the food chain. The importance of studying the ecology of shrimps in their different habitats helps in their preservation and provides possibilities of carcinoculture. This study examines diversity, ecology and reproduction parameters of fresh water shrimps of the genus *Macrobrachium* in the basins of Lepmassoun and Ondoamedza rivers. Lepmassoun and Ondoamedza rivers form part of the larger Nyong river basin in Cameroon. In situ water physicochemical parameters were determined on site, preserved water samples used in mineral analysis and subsequent ecological health assessment. Shrimps were sampled using the scoop method with hand nets and analyzed. Sampling was done in 5 seasons distributed from January 2017 to February 2018. The results of physicochemical parameters indicate that water in the two rivers was slightly mineralized, sufficiently oxygenated and slightly turbid. It was generally a non-polluted ecological zone for shrimps. A total of 113 shrimps distributed among 14 species were collected. The shrimp population included *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*, *Macrobrachium idae*, *Macrobrachium rude*, *Macrobrachium niloticus*, *Macrobrachium dux*, *Macrobrachium sp1*, *Macrobrachium sp2*, *Macrobrachium sp3*, *Macrobrachium sp4*, *Macrobrachium sp5*, *Macrobrachium sp6*, *Macrobrachium sp7*, *Macrobrachium sp8* and *Macrobrachium sp9*. In the river Odoameza 11 species

were collected among which *Macrobrachium sp8* (26.02%) is abundant, though, in the river Lepmassoun we collected 10 species dominated by *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* (22,5%). The species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* is most ubiquitous throughout river Lepmassoun (%O = 83.33%) The river basin of Lepmassoun had a higher population of *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* with a percentage occurrence of 66.67%. then It is concluded that the water in the two river basins is of good ecological quality for shrimp survival with species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* dominating in the river Lepmassoun. In the river Ondoameza *Macrobrachium sp8*, *Macrobrachium idae*, *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*, *Macrobrachium sp4* having all the percentage of occurrence (%O) of 66.67% are relatively represented. Only *Macrobrachium dux* have Oviparous females in our study. This Oviparous females ranged from 50.38 to 64.18 mm and egg size varied from 1.7 to 2 mm. The prawn attained a maximum total length and weight of 64,18 mm and 2,96 g respectively. In our basins slope the *Macrobrachium dux* reproduces twice year during the big dry season and small dry season since production is early and the eggs are rather broad by consequence the larval development is shortened.

Keywords— Shrimp; *Macrobrachium*; oviparous, Lepmassoun; Ondoamedza.

I. INTRODUCTION

The world production of shrimp exceeded 240 T in the year 2000, which roughly corresponds to 20% of the total quantity produced (Sampaio, Silva et al. 2007). Africa's contribution to shrimp production remains very minimal with almost null participation in carcinoculture (FAO 2010). The main species of fresh water shrimp with commercial value belongs to the family paleamonidae (Nnana Noah, 2010). Within this commercially viable family, the genus Paleamon, Leander, and Macrobrachium are dominant (Monod 1966). Furthermore, Macrobrachium (Bate, 1868) has been found in most of the biogeographic areas and more than 240 species have been recorded (De Grave and Franssen 2011).

Overfishing and pollution affects biodiversity of aquatic animals (Omwoma 2012). Continuous aquatic system assessment for water quality and biodiversity helps in system management and product quality. Use of agricultural products such as pesticides and fertilizers including urbanization are known to affect water quality and species diversity (Allan and Flecker 1993). The fact that production of shrimp in Africa has remained low leads scientists to determine possible reasons and mitigation measures over the same. This is particularly the case given that Africa is dominated with several fresh water bodies that are conducive for shrimp production.

Furthermore, shrimps are of great ecological, medical and socio-economic interest. They can be characterized by their life cycle (New and Singholka 1985) and they play a significant role in water trophic networks. They are regarded as indicators of good water quality. In addition, the market of shrimps in the east is a gold basket and their price is higher than fish. Such good qualities of shrimps makes them an important subject of study especially their ability to provide high protein content in different diets (Doume doume, Toguyen et al. 2013).

In Cameroon, shrimps of the genus Macrobrachium (Herklots 1851) might be exploited by artisanal fishermen that use bow nets. There is little data available on the ecology and the biology (reproduction) of shrimps in Cameroon (Doume doume, Toguyen et al. 2013), (Tchakonte, Ajeegah et al. 2014) and (Ajeegah, Yogback et al. 2017), (Ajeegah, Yogback et al. 2018). As such we endeavor herein to characterize the ecology of shrimps river Lepmassoun and the river Ondomedza. Lepmassoun and Ondoamedza rivers form part of the larger Nyong river basin in Cameroon. The study considers biodiversity of shrimps and ecological quality parameters of the two river basins.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1. Study site

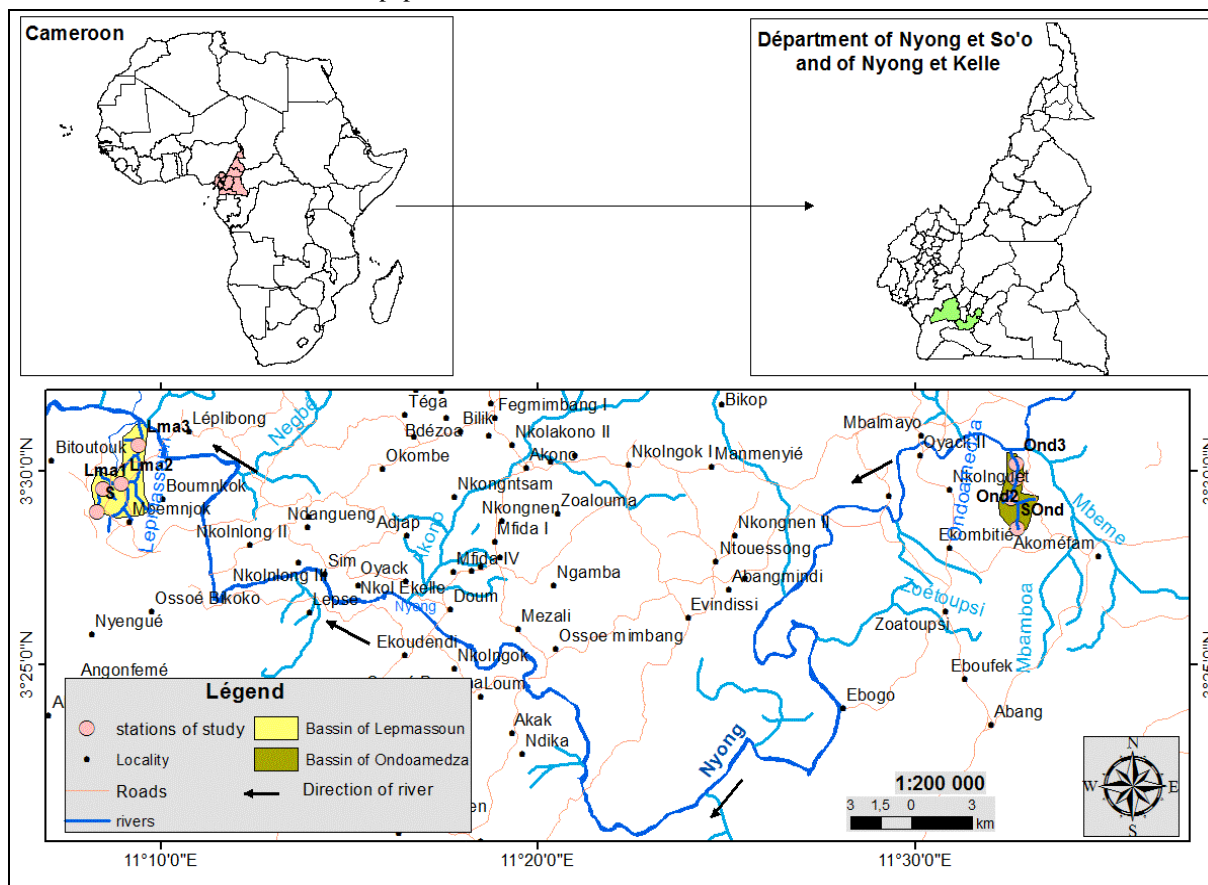


Fig.1: Study areas that comprise of River Lepmassoun and River Ondoamedza along River Nyong in Cameroon. Lma 1 -3 are sampling points on Lepmassoun River while Ond 1-3 are sampling points along the Ondoamedza River.

The study site, Nyong River Basin, comprises of two tributary rivers namely Lepmasoun and Ondoamedza (Fig. 1). These two river tributaries lie within an equatorial climate. Such a climate is characterized with four main seasons per year (two dry seasons and two wet seasons). The main dry season is experienced from December to February while the main wet season is experienced from September to November. The rainfall distribution ranges from 3 000 mm per month to 1500 mm per month in the two basins resulting to the entire area being covered with forest (Olivry 1986). Six stations were identified as marked in Fig. 1 for sampling and they were identified as Lma1 (0329' 41,164" N; 118' 45,068" E), Lma2 0329' 44 " ;118' 45,072" E and Lma3 (0330' 58,19" N;119' 29,727" E) for the river Lepmassoun; Ond1 (0329' 40,25 " N;1132' 38,336" E), Ond2 (0330' 1,451" N;1132' 43,048" E) and Ond3 (0330' 18,166' ' N;1132' 37,413" E) for the river Ondoamedza (see Fig. 1).

2.2. Physicochemical parameters determination

Physicochemical parameters including Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Electric Conductivity and TDS were determined insitu. Dissolved CO₂, Alkalinity (HCO₃⁻), Nitrates (NO₃⁻), Nitrites (NO₂⁻), Orthophosphate (PO₄³⁻), and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (NH₃-N) were determined using standard procedures on unfiltered water samples. Shrimps were collected using a scoop method with a hand net and preserved with formalin in containers that had been washed with alcohol (95%). In the laboratory, the shrimps were identified by placing them in a petri dish, sorted accorded to their morphology and identified using a binocular magnifying glass according to cited keys of identification features (Monod 1966), (Powell 1980); Won and Lawrence, 1988; Bruce and Thomas, 1991; (Day, Stewart et al. 2001)).

2.3. Determination of Shrimp biodiversity

The diversity index of (Shannon and Weaver 1948) was used in determination of species distribution within their habitat (Equation 1).

$$N = \frac{n}{N} \times 100 \dots \dots \dots Eqn.1$$

Where n = numerical proportion of a taxonomic group, N = total number of individuals

Percentage species of occurrence (%SO), the percentage of stations where a species is sampled was determined using Equation 2 (N'zi, B.G. et al. 2008).

$$\%SO = \frac{Si}{St} \times 100 \dots \dots \dots Eqn.2$$

Where: Si = number of stations where species i was captured, St = total number of stations prospected.

2.4. Reproduction of shrimp

Ovigerous females were identified and sex-ratio determined according to equation 3 (Agadjihouede 2006). The number of eggs in the female was physically counted.

$$SR = \frac{Nm}{Nf} \dots \dots \dots Eqn.3$$

Where Nf = number of females and Nm = number of males

The femininity rate was determined using equation 4

$$TF = \frac{FX100}{F + M} \dots \dots \dots eqn.4$$

Where F = number of females in the given sample and M = number of males in the given sample.

Fecundity was done by counting the number of eggs from the weight sampling method. The eggs were taken out of the pill organizers and wrung out on blotting paper. A fraction of 0.05g was then taken and counted under a magnifying glass. From the results, absolute fertility (Equation 5) and relative fertility (Equation 6) was determined where absolute fertility is the total number of eggs and relative fertility is the number of eggs per unit of body weight.

$$FT = \frac{NxP(G)}{0.05} \dots \dots \dots Eqn.5$$

Where FT = absolute fertility, N = number of eggs in the 0.05g fraction, P (G) = gonad weight.

$$FR = \frac{FTx1}{Pt} \dots \dots \dots Eqn.6$$

Where FR = relative fertility; FT = absolute fertility; Pt = body weight

The reproductive period was determined through the gonado-somatic relationship (RGS) given by equation 7 (Goore Bi 1998). This relationship reflects the progress of maturity of the ovaries. The higher this ratio, the closer is the laying, when it is weak, the female is in a state of sexual rest. In the state of immaturity, the value of this relation is zero or near zero.

$$RGS = \frac{P(G)}{Pt} \times 100 \dots \dots \dots Eqn.7$$

Where RGS = Gonado-somatic relationship; P(G) = Gonad weight; Pt = body weight

III. RESULTS

3.1. Physicochemical parameters

The data for physicochemical parameters of River Lepmassoun and River Ondoamedza are recorded in **Table 1**. During the period of study, abiotic parameters did not significantly vary according to the test of Kruskal Wallis. However, temporarily, some parameters varied except for temperature, dissolved oxygen, oxygen content, MES, color, oxydability, ammoniacal nitrogen and magnesium hardness.

Temperature was constant with an average of $21.66 \pm 0.86^\circ\text{C}$ in River Ondoamedza. However in River Lepmassoun, it varied from one season to another according to Kruskal-wallis test ($P < 0, 05$) of $19,5^\circ\text{C}$ (GSP) at 23°C (PSP). In the river Lepmassoun, the profile of variation of turbidity lies between 0 (GSP-Lma1) and 48 FTU (GSS 2018-Lma3) and significantly varied from one season to another. That of MES was 0 mg/l (GSS-Lma3 and GSP-Lma2) and 32 mg/L (GSS 2018- Lma 3) and did not vary significantly with an average of 8.2 ± 8.47 mg/L, according to the test U of Mann Withney. In River Ondoamedza, the minimal values of turbidity, MES and colors are of 0 FTU, 0mg/L and 52 Pt-Co respectively and the maximum values are of 20 FTU (Ond1- GSS), 15 mg/L (Ond3- PSS) and 362 (Ond3- PSS) Pt-Co. With regard to the color, it did not vary significantly in the rivers under study with average value of 126.67 ± 47.8 Pt-Co in the River Lepmassoun and 135.67 ± 89.27 Pt-Co in the River Ondoamedza. However these values of turbidity recorded in the two rivers are in the standard (< 35 , g/L). neutrality. Their pH significantly varied from one season to another ranging between 6.66 CPU (Lma1, PSS) and 7.57 UC (Lma2, GSP) in the river Lepmassoun. River Odoamedza had a small variation in pH ranging between 5.25 UC and 7.97 UC (6.66 ± 0.75 CPU). The curve of conductivity curve and the TDS are stacking and confirms the positive strong correlation between the two parameters. Conductivity and TDSNT significantly varied on the temporal level in our two rivers. In Lepmassoun the smallest values of conductivity ($22 \mu\text{S/cm}$) and TDS (11 mg/l) are recorded in Lma3 during GSP and the maximum values are observed in Lma2 during the great dry season ($49 \mu\text{S/cm}$ for conductivity and 25 mg/l for the TDS) with the averages of conductivity and TDS of 36, $47 \pm 8.25 \mu\text{S/cm}$ and 18.27 ± 4.26 mg/l respectively. In the river Ondoamedza, conductivity varied from 14 (Ond3-GSP) to 138 mg/l (Ond3-PSP) and the TDS varied from 7 to 69 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. The percentage of oxygen significantly did not vary on the spatiotemporal plan according to the test of Mann Whitney in the river Ondoamedza with an average of $62 \pm 0,85$ %, however in the river Lepmassoun it varied from 60 (Lma2- PSS) to 69.9 (Lma3-GSS 2018). The profile of variation of the dissolved oxygen contents when superimposed with that of the percentage of oxygen in the

river Lepmassoun it varied from 4.78 (Lma3-GSP) to 6.75 mg/l (Lma3- GSS 2018). However, it is of 4.30 ± 1.25 mg/l in the river Ondoamedza. The dissolved CO_2 rate and alkalinity significantly varied among the sampling campaign to the other according to the test of Mann Withney. Thus the CO_2 rate varies from 1.76 mg/l (PSP) to 102.08 mg/l (GSS 2017) in the river Lepmassoun whereas in the river Ondoamedza it varies from 1.76 mg/l (Ond2 - PSP) to 133.76 mg/l (Ond3-GSS 2017). Alkalinity also varied from 2 mg/l (GSS 2017) to 20 mg/l (GSS 2018) in Lepmassoun. In the river Ondoamedza the highest values of alkalinity (48 mg/l) were recorded at the Ond3 station during the PSS and the low values were observed in Ond2 during the GSS 2017 (1 mg/l). In Lepmassoun, the maximum NO_3 values and NH_4^+ recorded at the Lma3 station are of 3.7 mg/l and 0.67 mg/l respectively and the minimal values of 0.05 mg/l (GSP) and 0.14 mg/l (GSP) respectively are recorded as Lma1 and Lma2. In the river Ondoamedza the minimal values of NO_3 and that of the NH_4^+ are of 0mg/l (Ond1 and Ond3 during the GSS 2018) and 0 mg/l (Ond2 - GSS 2018) respectively and the maximum values of NO_3 and NH_4^+ are of 0.5 mg/l (Ond3-PSS) and 2.1 mg/l (Ond3-PSP) respectively. The test of Mann Whitney showed a significant difference in nitrate values of between the GSS 2017 and the GSP, the PSP and GSS 2018 and between the PSS and GSP. The contents orthophosphate vary from 0.1 mg/l (Lma2- PSP) to 4.36 mg/l (Lma1- GSS 2017) in the river Lepmassoun. The curve of variation of the contents orthophosphate is three-phase in the river Ondoamedza. It presents three peaks, the first (3.7mg/l) was recorded in Ond1 (PSP), the second peak (2.71 mg/l) is observed in Ond2 during the PSP and the third peak (2.54 mg/l) is recorded at the Ond3 station during the PSP. Calcic hardness significantly varied from one campaign to another. It however varies from 0.06 mg/l (Lma3- PSS) to 2.27 mg/l (Lma3- GSP) in the river Lepmassoun and in river Ondoamedza it varied from 0.04 mg/l (Ond1-GSS 2017 and GSS 2018) to 0.08 mg/l (Ond3- GSP).

Table.1: Physicochemical parameters of water in River Lepmassoun and River Ondoamedza both tributaries to River Nyong in Cameroon

Site	Season	Temp	pH	Cond	TDS	%D O	CO ₂	Alka	Turb	MES	Color	NO ₃ ⁻	NH ₄ ⁺	PO ₄ ³⁻	Sali n	Resist.	Hard. Ca	Hard. Mg	
																			River Lepmassoun
2.0	22.0	6.8	34.0	17.0	66.9	1.8	6.0	16.0	7.0	117.0	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	29400.0	0.2	0.3		
3.0	22.0	6.7	42.0	21.0	62.7	40.5	2.0	18.0	8.0	180.0	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.0	24400.0	0.1	0.5		
4.0	19.5	7.3	21.0	10.0	62.9	8.8	16.0	0.0	4.0	132.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	31300.0	0.4	0.2		
5.0	22.8	7.4	40.0	20.0	63.2	5.3	20.0	33.0	16.0	60.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	25000.0	0.2	0.1		
Average		21.7	7.0	36.8	18.2	63.7	31.7	9.2	14.4	7.4	114.4	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.0	26276.0	0.5	0.3	
Middle	1.0	21.0	6.7	39.0	20.0	64.4	95.1	2.0	14.0	6.0	62.0	2.8	0.3	4.4	0.0	25600.0	0.6	0.7	
	2.0	23.0	6.8	32.0	16.0	66.0	24.6	14.0	15.0	4.0	145.0	2.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	31300.0	0.2	0.8	
	3.0	21.5	6.9	38.0	19.0	60.0	26.4	4.0	12.0	9.0	157.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	25600.0	0.1	0.4	
	4.0	21.0	7.6	34.0	17.0	62.6	7.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	132.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	32300.0	0.6	0.2	
	5.0	22.1	7.4	49.0	25.0	68.8	7.0	16.0	34.0	20.0	188.0	2.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	20410.0	0.3	0.3	
Average		21.7	7.1	38.4	19.4	64.4	32.0	8.0	15.2	8.0	136.8	1.7	0.2	1.0	0.0	27042.0	0.4	0.5	
Mouth	1.0	21.0	6.7	36.0	18.0	65.4	70.4	2.0	2.0	0.0	47.0	1.6	0.2	2.1	0.0	27000.0	1.6	1.0	
	2.0	22.0	6.7	30.0	15.0	66.8	25.8	10.0	9.0	5.0	104.0	3.7	0.7	1.0	0.0	34500.0	0.3	0.4	
	3.0	22.0	7.1	36.0	18.0	60.9	35.2	6.0	13.0	4.0	133.0	0.4	0.17	0.1	0.0	27800.0	0.1	0.1	
	4.0	21.0	7.4	22.0	11.0	60.4	1.8	10.0	0.0	5.0	202.0	0.1	0.26	0.4	0.0	30300.0	2.3	0.4	

Average	5.0	22.0	7.4	47.0	23.0	69.9	317.0	20.0	48.0	32.0	157.0	2.7	0.2	0.3	0.0	21280.0	0.32	0.21
	21.6	7.1	34.2	17.0	64.7	90.0	9.6	14.4	9.2	128.6	1.7	0.3	0.8	0.0	28176.0	0.9	0.4	
Average of River	21.6	7.0	36.5	18.2	64.3	51.2	8.9	14.7	8.2	126.6	1.5	0.2	0.9	0.0	27164.7	0.6	0.4	
Source of River O.	1.0	22.0	6.4	32.0	16.0	61.7	37.0	4.0	20.0	11.0	86.0	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.0	31800.0	3.2	1.4
	2.0	21.5	8.0	28.0	14.0	61.1	37.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	183.0	1.4	0.3	3.7	0.0	35700.0	0.3	0.4
Average	3.0	22.0	6.8	24.0	12.0	61.4	14.1	12.0	3.0	3.0	63.0	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	43500.0	0.0	0.4
	4.0	22.0	6.6	18.0	9.0	60.5	3.5	4.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	55600.0	0.1	0.0
Average	5.0	22.0	6.6	28.0	14.0	62.0	25.5	8.0	11.0	7.0	75.0	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.0	37650.0	1.1	0.9
	21.9	6.9	26.0	13.0	61.3	23.4	6.4	6.8	4.2	91.8	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.0	40850.0	0.9	0.6	
Middle of River	1.0	22.0	6.4	32.0	16.0	62.4	125.0	2.0	1.0	7.0	88.0	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.0	38500.0	64.0	3.2
	2.0	21.0	7.9	24.0	12.0	64.2	1.8	6.0	3.0	6.0	210.0	2.0	0.4	2.7	0.0	41700.0	0.5	0.6
Average	3.0	22.0	6.6	24.0	12.0	62.1	15.8	18.0	2.0	4.0	74.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	40000.0	0.1	0.1
	4.0	23.0	6.5	18.0	9.0	62.1	31.7	2.0	7.0	6.0	123.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	58800.0	0.3	0.0
Average	5.0	21.8	6.5	25.0	13.0	62.7	12.3	6.0	5.0	0.0	94.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	40000.0	0.1	0.0
	22.0	6.8	24.6	12.4	62.7	37.3	6.8	3.6	4.6	117.8	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.0	43800.0	13.0	0.8	
Mouth of River	1.0	21.0	6.0	30.0	15.0	62.4	133.8	1.0	10.0	6.0	73.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	32800.0	1.5	0.7
	2.0	22.5	8.0	138.	69.0	61.2	24.6	6.0	3.0	6.0	245.0	2.1	0.4	2.5	0.1	71900.0	0.4	0.2

		0																	
	3.0	22.0	6.2	24.0	12.0	62.3	5.3	48.0	13.0	15.0	362.0	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	41700.	0.1	0.1	
	4.0	24.0	5.3	14.0	7.0	61.6	31.7	6.0	3.0	5.0	223.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	65700.	0.9	0.1	
	5.0	21.0	6.3	32.0	16.0	62.5	12.3	20.0	14.0	0.0	84.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	32300.	0.2	0.0	
																48880.			
		22.1	6.4	47.6	23.8	62.0	41.5	16.2	8.6	6.4	197.4	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0	0.6	0.2	
Average of River	22.0	6.7	32.7	16.4	62.0	34.1	9.8	6.3	5.1	135.7	0.7	0.2	0.8	0.0	44510.	4.9	0.5		
Aquatic standards (MEDD and AE 2003), (NQS 2007), (SEQ-EAU, MEDD et al. 2013)			6.5	2500		70-90			15-35	25-50	50-58	2-10	0.1-0.5	0.1-0.5					

Sampling site 1 = long dry season 2017, 2 = short rain season 2017, 3 = short dry season 2017; 4 = long rain season 2017; 5 = long dry season 2018; Temp. = Temperature; TDS = total dissolved solids; DO = dissolved oxygen; Alka. = Alkalinity, Turb. = turbidity; Resist. = Resistivity; Hard. Ca = hardness due to calcium, Hard. Mg = Hardness due to Magnesium

Biological variables

Specific composition

During this study, a total of 113 shrimps was collected set out again in 14 species. 40 specimens were recorded in the river Lepmassoun and 73 ispecimes in the river Ondoamedza (Table II). In the river Lepmassoun we collected 10 species set out again by order of predominance as follows *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* (22,5%), *Macrobrachium sp1* (20%) *Macrobrachium dux* (12,5%) *Macrobrachium sp4* (5%), *Macrobrachium sp5* (5%) and *Macrobrachium sp6* (5%), *Macrobrachium sp9* (5%), *Macrobrachium niloticus* (2,5%) and *Macrobrachium rude* (2,5%). In the river Odoameza 11 species were collected, *Macrobrachium sp8* (26,02%) is abundant pus, followed respectively of *Macrobrachium idea* (19, 18 %), *Macrobrachium sp1* (16,44%), *Macrobrachium sp7* (9,59 %), from *Macrobrachium sp2* (8, 22%), *Macrobrachium sp4* (6,85%), *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* (5,48%), hard

Macrobrachium (2,74%), *Macrobrachium niloticus* (1,37%), *Macrobrachium sp5* (1,37%) and *Macrobrachium sp6*(1,37%). According to the test of Kruskal wallis, in the river Ondomedza all the species did not significantly vary on the plan spatiotemperal. However in the river Lepmassoun, *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* varied from one season to another. The quantity of *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* varied from 0(GSP) to 6 individuals (GSS 2017).

The index of Shannon and Weaver in the river Lepmassoun is of 2.05 bit/individual and that of Piélou is 0.57. These indices varied respectively in this river of 1.06 (Lma1) to 2.17 Bit (Lma 3) and 0.29 to 0.61. In the river Ondomedza these indices are 2.94 bit/individual and 0.87 respectively. The index of Shannon and the equitability of Piélou varied from 0 bit/ individual (Ond1) to 2.83 bit/ individual (Ond2) and from 0 to 0.17 respectively.

Table.2: Dynamics of abundances of the genus Macrobrachium (M.) collected for the period of study.

Locations	Seasons	<i>M. macrobrachion</i>	<i>M. niloticus</i>	<i>M. dux</i>	<i>M. rude</i>	<i>M. idea</i>	<i>M. sp1</i>	<i>M. sp2</i>	<i>M. sp3</i>	<i>M. sp4</i>	<i>M. sp5</i>	<i>M. sp6</i>	<i>M. sp7</i>	<i>M. sp8</i>	<i>M. sp9</i>	total
m1	GSS 2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	PSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PSS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
m2	GSS 2017	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	PSP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	PSS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
m3	GSS 2017	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	PSP	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PSS	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	4	0	3	1	0	7	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	2
d1	GSS 2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	
	PSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	PSS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	GSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	
d2	GSS 2017	2	0	0	0	9	5	6	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	
	PSP	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	

PSS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
GSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GSS 2018	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	1	0	2	9	5	6	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	
d3 GSS 2017	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PSS	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	0	
GSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GSS 2018	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
total	1	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	2	0	1	7	0	0	

Longitudinal distribution

Generally, the species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*, *Macrobrachium* sp2 and *Macrobrachium* sp1, *Macrobrachium* sp4, *Macrobrachium* sp5 are most present in our basin with the following percentages of presence of occurrence (%O) respective of 83,33 %, 66.67%, 60% and 50% (Table III). The species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* is most ubiquitous throughout river Lepmassoun (%O = 83,33%) that the other species like *Macrobrachium* sp1(66.67%), *Macrobrachium* sp3 (66.67%), *Macrobrachium* sp4 (66.67%), *Macrobrachium* sp5 (66.67%), *Macrobrachium* sp9 (66.67%), *Macrobrachium niloticus* (%O = 33.33%, *Macrobrachium rude* (%O = 33.33), and *Macrobrachium* sp7 (%O = 33.33%) are secondary represented along the gradient upstream downstream. In the river Ondoameza *Macrobrachium* sp8, *Macrobrachium idea*, *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*, *Macrobrachium* sp4 having all the percentage of occurrence (%O) of 66.67% are relatively represented throughout river as for the other species of which the percentage of presence is inferior with 50% (%O = 33,33%), they are passably present upstream downstream from the river.

<i>M. sp5</i>	3	6	50
<i>M. sp6</i>	1	6	16,666667
<i>M. sp7</i>	2	6	33,333333
<i>M. sp8</i>	2	6	33,333333
<i>M. sp9</i>	2	6	33,333333

Influence of environmental factors on crustacean distribution

Relationship between abiotic parameters and the shrimp community

According to the correlations of SPEARMAN, conductivity is correlated positively and significantly with the TDS (R = 0.563;p = 0.01), oxygen (R = 0.676;p = 0.01), turbidity (R = 0.563;p = 0.01). However it negatively correlated with the resistivity (R = -0.695, p=0.01). MES of course are correlated positively with turbidity (R = 0.641);p = 0.01).The resistivity as for it negatively correlated with turbidity ((R = -0.526;p = 0.01) and the TDS (R = - 0.694;p = 0.01). The pH correlated positively with calcic hardness (R = 0.512;p = 0.01). The ammoniacal nitrogen correlated positively with the color (R = 0.540;p < 0.01) and negatively with magnesian hardness (R = - 0.623;p = 0.01). Oxygen negatively correlated with the carbon dioxide (R = -0.573;p = 0.01) and positively with the temperature (R = 0.553;p = 0.01).The contents nitrate strongly correlated with magnesian hardness (R = 0.623;p = 0.01).As regards the relations existing between the shrimp species and the parameters abiotic (Table III) shows that *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* significantly and positively correlated with the percentage of oxygen, However this species negatively correlated with the resistivity and the color. *Macrobrachium dux* negatively correlated with CO₂, *Macrobrachium* sp2 negatively correlated with the hardness magnesian, the The species *Macrobrachium rude* and *Macrobrachium niloticus*, *Macrobrachium* sp3, *Macrobrachium* sp4, *M* sp7 significantly correlated with no physico-chemical parameter. *Macrobrachium idea* negatively correlated with the pH, *Macrobrachium* sp3 negatively correlated with dissolved CO₂ and the

Table.3: percentage of occurrence (%O) of genus *Macrobrachium* in our basin

	si	st	0%
<i>M. macrobrachion</i>	5	6	83,333333
<i>M. niloticus</i>	2	6	33,333333
<i>M. rude</i>	2	6	33,333333
<i>M. idea</i>	2	6	33,333333
<i>M. sp1</i>	3	5	60
<i>M.sp2</i>	4	6	66,666667
<i>M. sp3</i>	1	6	16,666667
<i>M. sp4</i>	3	6	50

resistivity. The species *Macrobrachium sp5* positively correlated with the percentage of saturation out of O₂. As regards *Macrobrachium sp7*, it has significantly and positively correlated with MEs, alkalinity and the conductivity and finally *Macrobrachium sp8* positively correlated with magnesian hardness. *Macrobrachium sp9* positively correlated with the alkalinity

An Analysis in Principal Components (ACP) is made thereafter to determine the physico-chemical parameters characteristic of the various formed groups. The analyzed matrix is a table of 19 columns corresponding to the environmental parameters taken into account and 30 lines representing the samples taken in the 6 stations of sampling during the 5 study campaigns. The essence of the original variance is provided on the first 5

factorial axes F1 (24.05 %) and F2 (19.38 %), F3 (15.55 %), F4 (10.73 %) and F5 (9.009 %) which cumulate 63.31% of total inertia (Figure 2b). The variable like *Macrobrachium sp1*, *Macrobrachium sp3*, the calcic hardness one, CO₂ and *Macrobrachium sp4* are more negatively correlated known the axis F1; however on turbidity, *Macrobrachium sp2*, the percentage of oxygen and nitrate are correlated positively on the axis F2. On the axis F3, conductivity, orthophosphates, the TDS and salinity is correlated there positively. The species *Macrobrachium sp7*, alkalinity and the color are positively correlated on the axis hard F4. Finally *Macrobrachium sp8* and the ammoniacal nitrogen are positively correlated on the axis F5

Table.4: Spearman correlation between *Macrobrachium shrimp* abundance and physicochemical parameters

Species		M. macrobrachion	M. niloticus	M.d ux	M.ru de	M.sp 8	M.id ea	M.sp 1	M.sp 2	M.sp 3	M.sp 4	M.sp 5	M.sp 6	M.sp 7	M.sp 9
pH (UC)	e	-,055	,332	,009	,064	-,352	-,459*	-,196	,159	,347	-,165	,315	-,247	,035	-,043
	p	,774	,073	,964	,736	,056	,011	,300	,400	,061	,384	,090	,189	,856	,823
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
conductivity(µS/cm)	e	,334	,023	,265	-,200	-,109	-,108	,194	,195	,193	,062	,064	,022	,403*	,052
	p	,071	,903	,158	,290	,567	,570	,305	,301	,307	,747	,735	,910	,027	,787
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
TDS (mg/L)	e	,331	,015	,271	-,200	-,109	-,108	,185	,203	,187	,062	,058	,022	,409*	,044
	p	,074	,935	,147	,290	,567	,570	,328	,282	,323	,747	,761	,910	,025	,817
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Percent O2(%)	e	,505**	,216	,074	,283	-,209	-,056	,063	,059	,186	-,316	,417*	,011	,338	,176
	p	,004	,251	,698	,130	,268	,767	,741	,758	,324	,089	,022	,955	,067	,351
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
CO2(mg/L)	e	,162	-,348	,365*	-,193	,244	,263	,011	,402*	,411*	,168	-,321	-,086	,302	-,315
	p	,393	,060	,048	,307	,193	,160	,955	,028	,024	,374	,083	,652	,104	,090
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Alkalinity (mg/L)	e	,081	,195	-,280	,065	-,034	-,165	,243	-,343	,344	-,026	,260	,271	-,252	,422*
	p	,672	,302	,133	,733	,857	,385	,195	,063	,063	,893	,166	,147	,179	,020
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
MES (mg/L)	e	,055	,233	-,184	-,149	,225	,260	,250	-,023	,342	,264	,155	-,270	-,079	,402*
	p	,775	,215	,331	,433	,232	,165	,182	,903	,064	,158	,413	,149	,679	,028
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
color (mg/L)	e	-,384*	-,015	-,280	,096	-,270	,004	-,058	-,153	,334	,226	,282	-,118	-,514**	,321
	p	,036	,935	,135	,613	,149	,984	,762	,420	,071	,230	,130	,534	,004	,084

	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
nitrate (mg/L)	e	,249	,000	,205	,090	-,058	-,085	-,152	,040	,199	-,079	,379*	-,301	,245	,251
	p	,185	1,000	,277	,636	,761	,656	,422	,835	,291	,679	,039	,106	,192	,182
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
orthophosphate (mg/L)	e	,280	,224	,233	,206	,111	-,017	-,061	,337	,058	-,069	,019	-,140	,464**	-,107
	p	,135	,233	,215	,275	,558	,930	,748	,068	,761	,718	,919	,462	,010	,574
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
salinity(PSU)	e	,114	,071	,400*	-,223	-,261	-,222	-,039	,063	,193	,080	-,015	-,360	,470**	-,063
	p	,547	,708	,028	,237	,163	,238	,837	,741	,307	,674	,938	,051	,009	,741
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
resistivity	e	-,311	-,023	-,295	,238	,170	,202	-,135	-,106	,411*	,010	-,090	,000	,447*	-,050
	p	,095	,903	,113	,206	,370	,284	,476	,576	,024	,958	,637	1,000	,013	,791
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Hardness calcic (mg/L)	e	,191	,015	,046	-,129	,303	,183	-,059	,403*	,180	-,186	,013	-,140	,290	-,161
	p	,311	,935	,808	,498	,103	,334	,758	,027	,341	,324	,946	,462	,121	,395
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Hardness magnésic(mg/l)	e	,249	-,046	,150	-,013	,383*	,236	-,149	,179	-,006	,068	,206	-,279	,112	-,134
	p	,184	,808	,429	,946	,037	,209	,432	,343	,973	,723	,275	,135	,557	,481
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30

*. La corrélation est significative au niveau 0,05 (bilatéral).

** . La corrélation est significative au niveau 0,01 (bilatéral).

Reproduction of *Macrobrachium dux*

Determination of the sex-ratio and rate of femininity

All in all, the females are more numerous than the males. During the period of study 5 individuals of *Macrobrachium dux* were collected either 3 individuals (4 females and 1 males) in the river Lepmassoun giving a sex-ratio of 0.25. From a campaign to another in the river

Lepmassoun the sex-ratio at this species varied from 0 (PSS) with 0.5 (GSS 2017) and the females are dominant except during the small dry season where the males are equal to the females. Genrally, the rate of feminity (TF) during all the period of study in the river Lepmassoun is 57.14%, it varied from 66, 67% (GSS2017) to 100 % (PSS) (Table V).

Table.5: Number of males (M), females (F) sampled by campaign and sex-ratio (Sr), and feminity rate (TF)

<i>Macrobrachium mabrachion</i>	F	M	FO	f+m	Sr F	Sr M	TF
GSS 2017	2	1	1	3	0,5	2	66,67
PSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PSS	2	0	2	2	0	0	100
GSP	0	0	0	0	0		
GSS 2018	0	0	0	0			
	4	1	3	5	0,25	4	80

Fruitfulness and gonado-somatic ratio (RGS)

Three ovigerous females were collected during our study. An ovigerous female was obtained at the Lma3 station during the first countryside, it has a size (LT) of

approximately 52 mm and it weighs (W) 1,79g and has an absolute fruitfulness of 39 eggs. The two other ovigerous females were recorded at the Lma3 station during the PSS (Table V).One has a size of approximately 50.38mm, it

weighs 0.176g and carries 39 eggs, the other as for it weight of 0.312g, it has a size of 64.18mm and its absolute fruitfulness is of 100 eggs. Average absolute fruitfulness at this species is of 59 eggs. Relative fruitfulness as for it varied from 22 eggs/g for the female which measures 52 mm (Lma3-GSS 2017) to 34 eggs/G for the largest female which measures 64.18 mm, giving an average of 28 eggs/g. The eggs carried by the females are of yellow color orange sharp. Concerning the report/ratio gonado-somatic (RGS), it varied from 4. 44%

for the female collected in first countryside (GSS 2017) to 12.35% for the female collected during the third countryside with an average value is 9.11%. The GSI showed highest percentage of mature females (<50%) from January 2017 to February 2018. Maxima of GSI (10.52%) were recorded at PSS (July) and minim of GSI (1.73%) were recorded during the GSS 2017 (January). The GSI mean is 7.67% in PSS. This indicates that *M. macrobrachion* in Lepmassoun River underwent a reproductive period during the dry season.

Table.5: Absolute fruitfulness (FT), relative fruitfulness (FR), Gonadosomatic report/ratio (RGS) and gonadosomatic index (RGI) at *Macrobrachium dux*.

Number of eggs	Lt(mm)	Lc(mm)	Pt(g)	P(G) (g)	FT(eggs)	FR(eggs/g)	RGS %	RGI(%)
39	52	14.5	1.758	0.078	39	22.18	4.43	1.73
38	50.38	11.72	1.424	0.176	39	27.19	12.35	4.82
100	64.18	15.14	2.963	0.312	100	33.69	10.52	10.52

Relationship between the number of eggs and morphological parameters at *Macrobrachium dux*

In our zone of study the coefficient of correlation (R2) are respectively 0.42;0.99 and 0.96 for the relation which exists between the number of egg and the length of the carapace (Lc) (Figure 2a), then the number of eggs and overall length (Lt) (Figure 2b) and finally the number of egg and weight (w) (Figure 2c).The greatest constant of regression (a = 42.59) is observed in the existing relation between number of egg and Pt, follow-up of that putting

forward the number of eggs and Lt (a = 4.64) and finally that connecting the number of eggs and Lc (a=0.0334). As regards the coefficient of regression (b), it is negative for the existing relation between a number of eggs and Pt (b = - 28.05) and between the number of eggs and Lt (b=- 198.55).This coefficient (b) is positive for the existing relation between the number of eggs and Lc. We note that when the female is large it produces more eggs to its advantage.

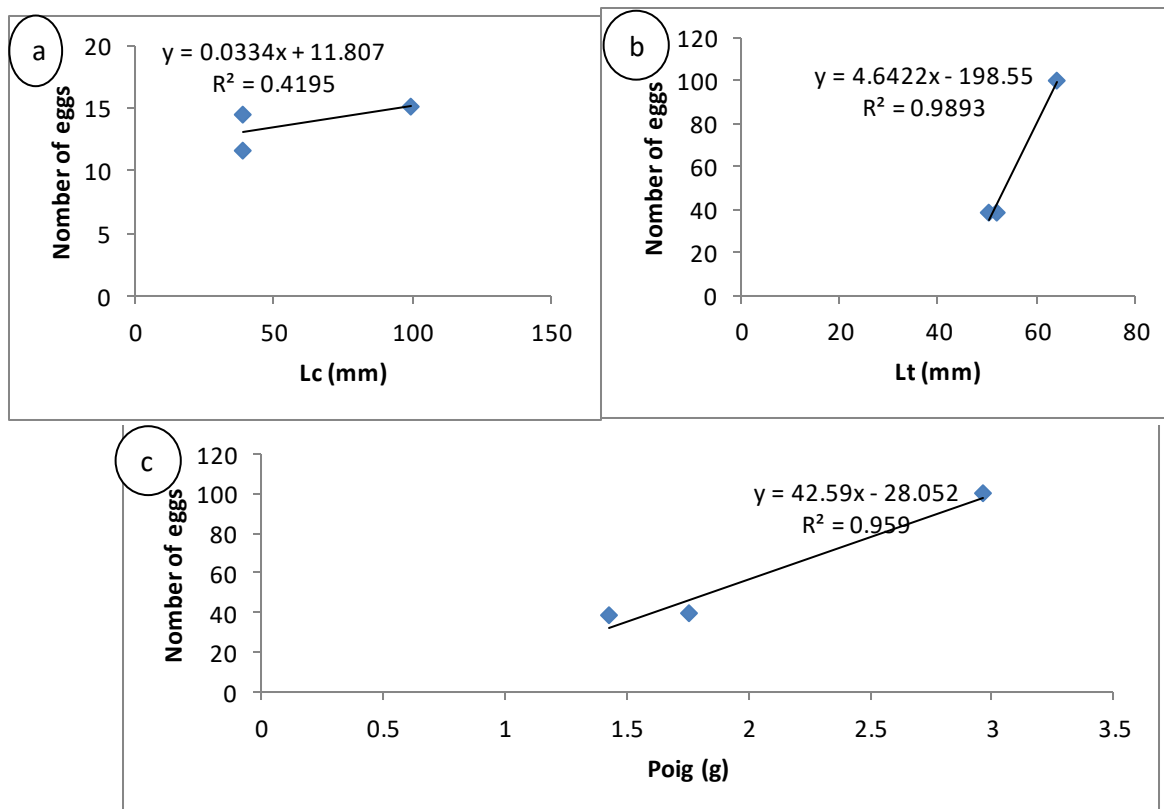


Fig.2: relationship between the number of eggs and Lc (a), the number of eggs and Lt (b) and the number of eggs with weight (c) at *Macrobrachium dux*

IV. DISCUSSION

Environmental variables

The values of temperature recorded in the river Lepmassoun and Ondoamedza all located in medium rural significantly did not vary from one station to another. This would be explained by the presence of canopée which is present and almost identical to all the stations which constitutes a barrier reducing the penetration of the solar rays on the variation in the temperature of water along the river. This observation is in agreement with those of (Foto Menbohan, Koji et al. 2012) (Foto Menbohan, Mboye et al. 2017) and (Tchakonte, Ajeagah et al. 2014), Biram À Ngon and al. (2018) (BIRAM À NGON, FOTO MENBOHAN et al.) obtained on Nga, Mabounié, Nsapè jets, Abouda, Fam, Nkoumou and Nga respectively. However the variations observed from one season to another in the river Lepmassoun would result from the variation in the temperature during dry seasons. Ebang, 2004 underlines on this subject that the temperature of surface water is strongly influenced by the ambient temperature and the seasons. These values of temperature are favorable to the good biological development (Ouhmidou *and al.*, 2014). The range of the values obtained is located in the range of the temperature of bearable water by the fresh water shrimps which support some until 34°C beyond which they are vulnerable (Griessinger *and al.*, 1990).

The low values of conductivity (34.6 mg/l) obtained during our study in our rivers would be explained by nature slightly anthropized of our various areas catchment and with the nature of the grounds. These results approaches those obtained by Ajeagah and Al, 2017 in the river Matourou of the catchment area of Nyong (25.89 mg/l). The strong value recorded during the PSP means that there exists in this month a great concentration of dissolved electrolysable salts which is explained by the scarcity of the rains. The brutal fall of conductivity during the great season rain is due to arrival of the rains leading to the flood. These values of conductivity (< 35mg/l) respect the standards of quality of surface water (AE 1999). Light acidity with a tendency of neutrality recorded in the two rivers could be explained by the presence of the humuses resulting from the degradation of the sheets died in our rivers which are under cover vegetal. Welcome (1985) affirms that the forest rivers, with water with humic characteristics rich person in substance, are slightly with strongly acid with a pH located between 4 and 7 UC. These forest rivers are favorable to the development of the watery organizations. According to (AE 1999), the pH ranging between 6.0 and 8.5 UC is favorable to the expression of the biological

potentials of many groups. The low values of my study recorded in the two rivers approaches those recorded by Ajeagah *and Al*, 2017 in the same ecological area. These results could be explained by the fact that water of the river Lepmassoun and Ondoamedza is slightly charged. The values of turbidity (< 35, g/l) recorded are relatively low and testify to a good ecological quality according to (MEDD and AE 2003). The differences between the campaigns mentioned by the test of U of Mann Withney could be explained by the fact that during the season of rains the particles are suspended thus affecting turbidity. The average values of color observed in our rivers could be explained by the presence of the colloidal particles of negative charge, these result approach work of (Ajeagah, Yogback et al. 2017) carried out in the catchment area of Nyong. Generally, the average values of dissolved oxygen recorded in our different river make it possible to qualify their water of passable with good (Villeneuve, Legare et al. 2006). These oxygen values which we obtained are inferiors with that obtained by Agadjihouede, 2006 in the lagoon of large-popo (9.76mg/l) but are acceptable for a good growth of the shrimps (Griessinger, Lacroix et al. 1991) for these authors, with the tops of 5 mg/l, the shrimp is under favorable conditions of breeding. With the lower parts of 2 mg/l, the shrimps cannot balance their needs anymore and die when this content persists. The orthophosphate contents recorded in the river Lepmassoun are relatively weak and significantly varied from one season to another according to the test of Kruskal Wallis ($p < 0,05$). The strong values recorded during the first countryside which corresponds to the great season dries 2017 could be due to the strong mineralization of the organic matter. During this season the river has undergoes a very significant stress hydrous which caused the accumulation of the organic matter (sheets dead) as our rivers are under wood what supports a very thorough mineralisation of the organic matter. The NH_4^+ having increased station Lma1 and the Lma3 station in the river Lepmassoun is nevertheless below the standards recommended by the (SEQ-EA U, MEDD et al. 2013) (Table V). This would be in relation to the bacterial decomposition of the nitrogenized organic matter of made light reductions in the contents of O_2 dissolved recorded in these periods. Their weak presence in the river Lepmassoun and Ondoamedza could be explained by made that the medium is sufficiently oxygenated. For this purpose (IBGE 2005) stress that it is in absence of oxygen that the anaerobic bacteria transform nitrates and produce ammonia (NH_3) or ammonium (NH_4^+). The strong values of nitrate recorded in the river Ondoamedza during the

small season of rain could be explained by the scrubbing of the agricultural grounds in the catchment area. Liechti, 2010 underline on this subject which if the contents nitrates exceed 1.5 mg/L, there probably was arable land scrubbing.

Biological variables

During this study the inventory of shrimps of the genus *Macrobrachium* made it possible to put forward 14 shrimp species. This specific richness is higher than that obtained by (Tchakonte, Ajeegah et al. 2014) in the river Nsapè in zone périurban of Douala and no species of *Macrobrachium* is common for us. Our specific richness is also high than that obtain by Makoumbou and al., 2015 in the rivers Lokoundje, Kienke and Lobe Rivers of South Region, Cameroon where we have two species (*Macrobrachium macrobrachium* and *Macrobrachium dux*). This difference could be explained by the fact Nsapè, Lokoundje, Kienke and Lobe river are a coastal river and cuts the throat of the coastal species and the land species. Of share the position péri urban, the court of water Nsapè could start to be subject to the influence of the urban activities contrary to our rivers which are located in rural zone where the anthropic activity is quasi null. It is also necessary to note that specific richness of each one of our rivers is higher than that of (Ajeegah, Yogback et al. 2017) in the river Matourou where only one species of *Macrobrachium* was obtained. This difference would be explained since our rivers are rich in microhabitats contrary to river Matourou. Our specific richness is higher than the specific richness of the genus *Macrobrachium* (6 species) obtained by (Konan 2009) in seven rivers in Ivory Coast, it is also higher than that obtained in Ivory Coast in the Boubo river (N'zi, B.G. et al. 2008) where nine shrimp species identified and also higher than that is obtained by (Djiriéoulou Kémomadjèhi, Bamba et al. 2017.) in the Forest of the Tanoé-Ehy Marshes in Ivory Coast. This specific difference is explained by the methods of fishing used, the types of sampled habitats and the periods of sampling. Seasonal of the specific richness showed that greater specific richness was recorded for the period of rising. These data show that the living conditions are more favorable for the watery organizations during this period (Djiriéoulou Kémomadjèhi, Bamba et al. 2017.). In our site of study, *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* (10,61%) is not dominating as in work of (Agadjihouede 2006) in the lagoon of large-popo with a percentage higher than our (51%), but this predominance is not observed by (N'zi, B.G. et al. 2008) in the river Mboumbo and where it is *Macrobrachium vollenhovenii* which dominates rather, in the river Boubo (N'zi, B.G. et al. 2008) this species is found only in the station which is very well oxygenated contrary to our rivers which are fairly oxygenated. We think that oxygen is a factor discriminating for the

presence or not of *Macrobrachium Macrobrachion*. The under predominance of *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* in our work is also observed by (Djiriéoulou Kémomadjèhi, Bamba et al. 2017.), where this species is dominated by far in the forest of the Tanoé-Ehy Marshes in Ivory Coast. These observations could be explained by the environmental conditions which more prochoche or similar from the drill of the marsh Tanoé-Ehy water where oxygen is not very good. It is however advisable to underline like Troadec and al. (1967) that the distribution and the abundance of the macro invertebrates like shrimps in the rivers, is on the whole, function of the specific requirements of various taxed and the environmental characteristics with the various portions of the rivers, as well as availability of food and nature of the substrate. As regards the reproduction, absolute fruitfulness had an average of (59 ±35 eggs) which we obtained form *Macrobrachium dux* is less than that brought back by Deeka and Aoweï, 2010 (1403 eggs); Eni and al, 2013 (442058 eggs) and Boguhe and al, 2016 (19906 ± 6640 eggs) for *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*. this fruitfulness is also less than that found by Kouton (2004) in the valley of Ouémé, by Goore Bi (1998) in the basin of Bia in Côte.d'ivoire and by Agadjihouede, 2006 in the lagoon of Large the popo for the species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*. The weak production of eggs by our females compared to the others species could due to the fact that our rivers are less favorable to the development of this species (low depth, raised color, temperature, average oxygenation) compared to the other rivers referred to above. The differences observed could also be allotted to the differences in egg dimension (Beacham and Murray, 1993), the techniques of sampling and the overall length of the female (Deeka and aoweï, 2010). In addition, the variations found for fruitfulness can also be due to the differences of environmental conditions, the provisioning food, the seasons and the physiological parameters of environment (Bagenal, 1978) and the physiology of species. Total length of ovigerous females ranged from 50,38 mm to 64,18 mm and egg size varied from 1.5 to 1.9 mm. Compared to other species, the eggs of *Macrobrachium dux* are larger than those of *Macrobrachium lanchesteri* 0.8-1.0 mm and *Macrobrachium olfersii* 0.4-0.6 mm reported by Hla et al. (2005) but nearly similar to those of *M. lamarrei* (1.1-1.5 mm) reported by the same authors and nearly similar to the same species in river Orogodo in Nigeria (Orimono and al., 2007). It was explained that in the genus *Macrobrachium*, fruitfulness is associated extremely with the female age, and that it can increase while the female becomes ripe (Graziani and Al, 1993) and the size of eggs. The high average value of RGS (11.44) obtained to the PSS could be explained by the fact that for this period the ovaries of the individuals females reached a state of

more thorough advance compared to the female collected during the GSS 2017 having a smaller index RGS (4.44). Kingdom and Erondu (2013) underline for this purpose that when index RGS lies between 10.55 and 15.57, the fresh water shrimps enter an intense phase of activity of reproduction. This is corroboration by the presence of the ovigerous females with the PSS, corresponding to the period of laying which takes place from July to December (Villé, 1972). It should be noted that the presence of the ovigerous females during the GSS 2017 which corresponds to the period of low water level could be explained by a new period of reproduction thus knowing that the reproduction of the genus *Macrobrachium* is not continuous throughout the year. In our basins slope the *Macrobrachium dux* reproduces twice a year since production is early and the eggs are rather broad by consequence the larval development is shortened. In this connection Gangbe and al., 2016 stress that reduced fruitfulness is compensated by early fecundation.

V. CONCLUSION

In relation to our work, the diversity and the fertility of shrimps of the genus *Macrobrachium* in the catchment area of Nyong, we conclude that our various rivers water are of good ecological quality which are slightly acid, fairly oxygenated, slightly mineral-bearing, slightly turbid but with a rather significant color. This rivers have a very significant diversity comprising 14 species of genus *Macrobrachium* which are, *Macrobrachium macrobrachion*, *Macrobrachium rude*, *Macrobrachium niloticus*, *Macrobrachium dux*, *Macrobrachium idea*, *Macrobrachium* sp1, *Macrobrachium* sp2, *Macrobrachium* sp3, *Macrobrachium* sp4, *Macrobrachium* sp4, *Macrobrachium* sp5, *Macrobrachium* sp6, *Macrobrachium* sp7 *Macrobrachium* sp8 and *Macrobrachium* sp9. *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* is dominate in the river Lepmassoun but *Macrobrachium* sp8 dominates in river Ondoamedza. We note as a whole an equal distribution of the species in the river Lepmassoun. They are diversified enough according to the index of diversity of Shannon. The équi-partition of the species in the river Ondoamedza is higher than river Lepmassoun. *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* significantly and positively correlated with *Macrobrachium* sp7. However this species negatively correlated with the the color. The species *Macrobrachium* sp5 positively correlated with the percentage of saturation out of O₂. As regards *Macrobrachium* sp7, it has significantly and positively correlated with MES and alkalinity and finally *Macrobrachium* sp8 positively correlated with magnesian hardness.

The species *Macrobrachium dux*, had 3females ovigerous whose settlement is dominated by the females.

The river Lepmassoun, the species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* enters in intense phase of activity of reproduction during the small dry season but another period of reproduction was observed during the great dry season. In our basins slope the *Macrobrachium dux* reproduces twice a year since production is early and the eggs are rather broad by consequence the larval development is shortened. The species *Macrobrachium macrobrachion* is a ubiquist in our two rivers, it is it more in the river Lepmassoun compared to the other species and average in the river Ondoamedza. For a better knowledge of the reproduction of *Macrobrachium* in the forest belt in Cameroon it would be interesting to traverse other aquatic environments.

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