

# Structural variability of benthic macro-invertebrate communities in the watershed of the Soummam (Algeria, North Africa)

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Description

Structural variability of benthic macro-invertebrate communities in the watershed of the Soummam (Algeria, North Africa). - The spatio-temporal distribution and structure of benthic invertebrate communities has been studied in a catchment area of northern Algeria (the watershed of Soummam). The samples were collected over two seasons (spring and summer) in 2005 and 2006 with some additional ones in 2007. They were obtained in 34 stations located at elevations between 20 m and 1100 m a.s.l. Community variability was analysed in terms of space (taxonomic variability in the three parts of the Soummam catchment area) and time (seasonal variation between spring and summer). In the Soummam catchment area, two types of large-scale factors (altitude and slope) govern the distribution of benthic macro-invertebrates by acting on the flow velocity and nature of the substrate. Changes in current speed affect ...