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Response of endemic *Clarias* species' life-history biometrics to land use around the papyrus-dominated Mpologoma riverine wetland, Uganda



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Abstract

The Mpologoma River wetland is highly negatively impacted by rice growing and yet it provides habitat to endemic *Clarias* species that are important to the wetland fishery. Variations in life-history biometrics of small *Clarias* species at various wetland sites in relation to land-use changes within the wetland were studied in 2012. Four sites exposed to different land uses were sampled for vegetation, water quality and small *Clarias* species' life-history biometrics. Water conductivity was significantly higher at the highly disturbed site, ranging from 140 to 480 $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$. Limiting nutrient levels, particularly phosphorus, were higher at the least disturbed sites. Two small *Clarias* species were identified. Mean total length and weight of *Clarias* *liocephalus*, the most abundant species (66%), were 16.81 cm (SD 4.03) and 33.77 g (SD 19.63), respectively,

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