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The invertebrate's community in adjacent Alto Iguaçu's anthropic lakes of different environmental factors

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Abstract: Environmental differences occur between lentic and lotic communities' establishment, especially because of water time residence. Here we used a combination of field measurements and statistical analysis to evaluate the influent factors on the aquatic macroinvertebrates' composition and structure in 15 anthropogenic lakes from Alto Iguaçu's region. Macroinvertebrates were sampled from the marginal vegetation (with or without macrophytes) and sediment. Chemical parameters ranged among the anthropogenic lakes, mainly those which are connected to the Iguaçu River, beyond the presence or absence of macrophytes, interfering on the community's structure. Lake's morphometric data were measured in each lake and its relation to community was tested. The community structure was not related to the margin development index (Ds), macrophytes and altitude. Higher equitability was associated to the macrophytes presence in more than 30% of water surface and also where the riparian vegetation was more complex. Chironomids and oligochaetes densities were associated to lakes with the water surface completely covered by macrophytes and complex riparian vegetation. We observed a close association between productivity (phosphorous and nitrogen) and the community equitability ($R = 0.3$; $p < 0.05$) and Oligochaeta dominance ($R = 0.32$; $p < 0.05$), and not to Ostracoda's ($R = 0.33$; $p > 0.05$) and Chironomidae's ($R = 0.34$; $p > 0.05$) dominances, although we had not weighty difference among analyzed biological indexes. The obtained values from the BMWP' and EPT indexes resulted in acceptable, doubtful or critical water quality, what corroborates with the macroinvertebrate's structure of the composition and with the environmental variables observed in field.

Keywords: freshwater invertebrates, Iguaçu River, productivity, macrophytes, tropical lakes.

KRAWCZYK, A.C.D.B., BALDAN, L.T., ARANHA, J.M.R., MENEZES, M.S. & ALMEIDA, C.V. **A comunidade de invertebrados em lagos antrópicos adjacentes com diferentes fatores ambientais no Alto Iguaçu.** Biota Neotrop. 13(1): <http://www.biotaneotropica.org.br/v13n1/pt/abstract?article+bn00813012013>

Resumo: Diferenças ambientais ocorrem entre o estabelecimento de comunidades de ambientes lênticos e lóticos, especialmente por causa do tempo de residência da água. Foi usada uma combinação de métricas de campo e análise estatística para avaliar os fatores influentes sobre a composição e estrutura de macroinvertebrados aquáticos em 15 lagos antropogênicos da região do Alto Iguaçu. Os macroinvertebrados foram amostrados da vegetação marginal (com ou sem macrófitas) e sedimento. Parâmetros químicos variaram entre os lagos antrópicos, principalmente aqueles conectados ao Rio Iguaçu, além da presença ou ausência das macrófitas, interferindo na estrutura da comunidade. Dados de morfometria de lagos foram mensurados e sua relação com a comunidade foi testada. A estrutura da comunidade não foi relacionada ao índice de desenvolvimento da margem (Ds), macrófitas e altitude. Maior equitabilidade foi associada à presença de macrófitas em mais de 30% da superfície da água e também onde a vegetação ripária foi mais complexa. Densidades de quironomídeos e oligoquetas foram associadas a lagos com a superfície completamente coberta por macrófitas e complexa vegetação ripária. Foi observada associação entre a produtividade (fósforo e nitrogênio) e a equitabilidade da comunidade ($R = 0.3$; $p < 0.05$) e dominância de Oligochaeta ($R = 0.32$; $p < 0.05$) e não para a dominância de Ostracoda ($R = 0.33$; $p > 0.05$) e Chironomidae ($R = 0.34$; $p > 0.05$), apesar de não haver diferença entre os índices biológicos analisados. Os valores obtidos através do Índice BMWP' e EPT/C resultaram em ambientes de qualidade aceitável, duvidosa ou crítica, o que corrobora com a estrutura da composição de invertebrados e com as características ambientais observadas em campo.

Palavras-chave: invertebrados dulcícolas, Rio Iguaçu, produtividade, macrófitas, lagos tropicais.

Introduction

Freshwater ecosystems are characterized by two types of environments, lotic and lentic, which differ primarily in relation to their flux and water residence time. In a lentic environment, water residence time can be up to 10 years. Generally shallow tropical environment characteristics do not contribute to physical and chemical stratification (Esteves 1998).

Lakes can be classified according to their productivity, which takes account the primary productivity, and this, in turn, is related to how the nutrients arrive, and the depth. Since these data, it is possible to determine the environment trophic state (Odum 2001). Several researches determine the trophic state considering the available phosphorous and nitrogen concentrations (Dodds 2003), since these nutrients are limiting for plants (Trayler 2000). Tropical lentic environments tend to have higher phosphorous concentration than nitrogen, because of edaphic and climatic characteristics (Wetzel 2001). High macrophytes abundance take to nitrogen depletion, because of dissolved oxygen reduction, leading to denitrification, and, still in lower quantities, the production goes on in tropical freshwaters, which means in these environments the nutrient cycling is very efficient, as well the primary productivity (Kolding & Zwieten, 2006). Studies show a direct relationship between chlorophyll and phosphorous (Smith 1982), and Quiros (2002) states that the algal biomass reaches its peak with overload of total phosphorous. Furthermore, nutrients overload lead to these environments by runoff and point source of pollution (Rivas et al. 2000), reducing the water column and increasing the autochthonous production (Rast & Thornton 1996). Thus, littoral regions in lakes tend to have higher productivity and fauna diversity than limnetic and profundal regions (Tundisi & Matsumura-Tundisi 2008).

Biological community colonization and establishment in ponds have a determining factor of habitat conditions (Marques et al. 1999). Thus, the floodplain physical, chemical and morphological measures condition these communities (Junk et al. 1989, Carignan & Neiff 1992, Neiff et al. 2001), whereas the horizontal movement of the river could flood the ponds and, consequently, there is exchange of water and materials. This exchange ensures selective pressure on the species of wetland areas, allowing a community composed by organisms with broad physiological plasticity, which survive in an intense spatial and temporal variations habitat (Neiff 1975, Poi de Neiff & Bruquetas de Zozaya 1989).

Anthropic lakes are remaining holes on the ground excavated for sand extraction, which once abandoned, are drained by the catchment area and form the water mirrors (Lelles et al. 2005). Although the formation of water features by mining is characteristic of a changed environment, the presence of vegetation around the lakes and the physical chemical characteristics favor the macroinvertebrates colonization in these lentic systems in development (Moletta et al. 2005). These shallow lakes with reduced areas are influenced by any changes in environmental conditions, and this is reflected on water quality and aquatic community structure. After a big flooding in 1995, some works, like the channel's rectification and the construction of dikes on the floodplain and the secondary channel, were alternatives to reduce the recurring floods that affected the population in nearby areas (Superintendência... 2007). The secondary channel was constructed in order to provide greater depth, parallel to the river. When entering in the metropolitan Curitiba's region, the riverbed was modified, providing extension and depth, in many points it remakes the riverbed or cut the natural one, transforming the meanders in to horseshoe lakes.

Brauns et al. (2007) argue that while domestic and industrial discharges have been reduced in recent years, due to wastewater

treatment, the lakes still receive nitrogen from urban areas, and phosphorous from agricultural waste, besides atmospheric deposition. According to Vollenweider (1968) the increase of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, enriches the environment and favors the algal blooms, which can reduce the development of submerged plants (Chandra et al. 2005). These, in turn, are important for aquatic mesohabitats because they play an important ecological role regarding the availability of food, refuge place and nutrient cycling (Biggs & Malthus 1982, Esteves 1998, Alves et al. 2003, Thomaz & Cunha 2010).

The aquatic invertebrates' communities are represented by a heterogeneous group of taxa, with approximately 0,5 mm of length, which survives associated to the deep substratum (Mugnai et al. 2010). These communities are very important to the understanding about aquatic ecosystems (Cummins 1992) and have been used as pollution bioindicator in these, because of their wild distribution, abundance and easy to collect. These animals are relatively sedentary, and, because of this, can show a local integrity situation; besides, they have a long life cycle, being able to register the environmental quality (Metcalf, 1989).

Its taxonomic diversity as well its different tolerance to organic enrichment permits inferences about the use of this community in environmental integrity analysis (Rosenberg & Resh 1993, Merrit & Cummins 1996). In shallow lakes, these taxa also act like metabolism ecosystem's facilitator because they participate in nutrient cycling, reducing the organic particles sizes, which improves the decomposition process to the microorganisms (Vannote et al. 1980, Keast 1985, Mcqueen et al. 1986, Berg et al. 1997, Silva et al. 2009). These taxa's occurrence in sediment and marginal/riverine vegetation (Botts & Cowell 1993, Kurashov 1996) favors an extensive analysis from the ecosystem conditions because of the different patterns displayed by the community in response to the physical and chemical parameters, making it possible to understand how the ecosystem alterations influence the attributes richness, composition and density (Goulart & Callisto 2003, Bonada et al. 2006).

Aquatic community classification is complicated because of lack of information about the measures that regulate the species abundance and distribution. Thus, Frissel et al. (1996) attribute community regulations to geomorphological patterns, and highlight the landscape influence in shallow aquatic ecosystems such as ponds, small lakes and coastal waters. In this context, the assessment of environmental parameters governing the distribution and abundance of invertebrate taxa in the ponds can show the most closely related variables to macroinvertebrates community (Sandin & Johnson 2004), and they allow the selection of monitoring methods that bring faster results and address the environmental conditions that are more related to the macroinvertebrates community attributes.

In lakes, the littoral region is the one which shows the biggest nutrient cycle and the highest organism's diversity, especially because of the vegetation, that supplies higher organisms' richness and diversity (Ward 1992). Callisto et al. (2000), comparing different regions, found that occurred highest diversity at the littoral region with secondary Atlantic forest, followed by the limnetic and littoral regions with eucalyptus, which evidences the around importance correlated to the fauna composition. Nascimento et al. (2011) showed that the highest beetles' diversity was associated to shallow environments, especially with the macrophytes presence, which are considered essential factors for the specie's diversity, settlement in shallow subtropical lakes, increasing the habitat heterogeneity, offering resource and refugee, especially to invertebrates (Hargeby 1990, Nessimian & De Lima 1997, Albertoni et al. 2007).

Thus, this study aimed to search factors that influence macroinvertebrates community composition and structure in

15 anthropogenic lakes in the First Plateau region of the Iguaçu River (Upper Iguaçu), Curitiba, Paraná.

The assumption guiding the work is that attributes of the invertebrates' community suffer the effects of the morphometric characteristics, water quality and landscape conditions of the lakes (marginal/riverine vegetation and macrophytes).

Materials and Methods

1. Study area

The sample points were from the First Paranaense Plateau, characterized by a broad Upper Iguaçu plain surrounded by gently rolling relief with wavy forms (Maack 1981), under the *Cfb* climate influence.

This work was carried out in an area with anthropogenic lakes, where 12 was chosen, derived from sand extraction was transformed into a park, and three were from recently closed river branches from the Iguaçu river, formed by anthropogenic changes to bridge construction or river course alteration in order to reduce the flooding, in Curitiba (Paraná state) (Figure 1).

2. Physical and chemical water analysis

Water and air temperature were measured in field. It was done one water sample from each lake, during the dry period (july/2009), and it was taken to the Laboratório de Hidrologia of the UFPR in order to be processed. The analyzed parameters were: Turbidity (NTU, nephelometric method), Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (mgO_2/L , Winkler Method), hydrogenionic potential (pH), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BO_5D) (mgO_2/L , Winkler Method), Orthophosphate ($\mu\text{g/L}$, spectrophotometer), Total Phosphate (TP) ($\mu\text{g/L}$, spectrophotometric Stannous Chloride, Nitrite ($\mu\text{g/L}$, Sulfanilamide and N-(1-Naftil) Etilenodiamine), Nitrate ($\mu\text{g/L}$, spectrophotometric), Ammonia Nitrogen ($\mu\text{g/L}$, Macro Kjendahl), Total Nitrogen (TP) ($\mu\text{g/L}$, spectrophotometer) e Dissolved Organic Carbon (mg/L , spectrophotometer). All the analyses were performed by the methodology proposed by Standard Methods (American... et al. 2005).

3. Invertebrates

Invertebrates were sampled from macrophytes/marginal vegetation using a 0.05 mm-mesh screen (30×30 cm) and the sample protocol included the introduction of the sieve under the marginal vegetation's roots and macrophytes in each replica, and all the material was collected by the sieve in order to happen the screening in the laboratory. The sediment sample was done using a Ponar type Grab sampler (15×15 cm), with three replicas for each sample point. In each lake, the substrate sample occurred in random places, and that the taken macrophytes had about 10 meters of distance from one to other. All the replicas were taken during the dry period (july/2009). The material screening was done on light box and all the organisms were identified to the lowest possible taxonomic resolution, mostly in genus level (Pérez 1988, Trivinho-Strixino & Strixino 1995, Merritt & Cummins 1996, Wiggins 1996, Mugnai et al. 2010).

4. Area characterization

The fifteen lakes considered in this work are from an area with 2.05 km^2 , from which twelve are coming from sand extraction and were transformed in a recreational park, two of lakes are Iguaçu River's arms that were closed with the secondary channel's construction, which was held to increase the riverbed and reduce the frequency of flooding, and one of them was established because of a bridge construction, in Curitiba city.

The sample point's choice was done according to environmental different characteristics about macrophytes and riparian vegetation (Instituto... 2004) in the lakes, being, yet, characterized according to the geographic localization. The macrophyte proportion on the water surface (MF), marginal/riverine vegetation (RV) and period of lake's establishment were measured. The macrophytes proportion was measured by values between 0 and 100%, with the following range of values: score 1 for 1 to 20% of macrophytes on the water surface (*1); score 2 for 21 to 40% of macrophytes on the water surface (*2); score 3 for 41 to 70% of macrophytes on the water surface (*3); score 4 for 71 to 100% of macrophytes on the water surface (*4). The riverine vegetation was measured according to the plant's absence, only grass presence, grass and bushes' presence or by grass, bush and tree's presence, following the range of values: 1 for shrub with predominance of grass (**1); 2 for shrubs that allow little shading (**2); 3 for intact vegetation (**3).



Figure 1. Location of study area. The sample points are numbered. Water bodies in black represent the sample points and the water bodies in gray, the adjacent sample points.

5. Morphometric characteristics of the lakes

The depth was obtained by the registered measure to dry period (july/2009) to the area according to the area's monitor. The lakes and surrounding area were marked in GPS and georeferenced using ERDAS software. The data adjust allowed the generation of a hypsometric map.

From ground numerical model, polygons were established in order to verify primary morphometric data, such as area and perimeter, and from this the development margin index (Ds) was calculated in order to determinate the lake's form (Wetzel 1990, Tundisi & Matsumura-Tundisi 2008). The Ds followed the equation: $Ds = L / 2\sqrt{IA}$, where L represents the polygon length (from each sample point) and A represents the circle circumference with the same lake area. The response values can be close or far from one (1). Thus, when the development margin index is closer to one, the lake tend to have a circular pattern, and the values far from one tend to be more elongated with dendritic pattern (between 3 and 5).

6. Data analysis

To the physical and chemical lakes' characterization the mean and standard deviation were calculated to the fifteen samples and the variation coefficient (VC) was defined. As a sample's variability standard of the quantitative factors was established that the lower variation coefficient of 20% denoted homogeneity conditions, whereas equal or upper than 20% denoted heterogeneous factors.

The community structure was checked on parameters of richness (number of taxa identified per sample unit - S), occurrence frequency (OF), Shannon-Wiener diversity index, which considers the community's biomass in relation to taxonomic richness (H), Margalef's richness, that was referred about the number of genus in the samples, (d), Pielou equitability (J'), dominance (Dm) and relative abundance. These attributes were calculated using the statistical pack Past® (Hammer et al. 2007).

ANOVA was applied using Past® computer program (Hammer et al. 2007) to verify differences in community attributes calculated for the 15 sample points. The data met the normality and homogeneity assumptions, prior tested for variance analysis.

The correlation between nitrogen and phosphorous was done according the Vollenweider (1983) proposal, being that the total nitrogen related to phosphorous ratio determine the environment's limitation because of one of these elements. According to this method, with a ratio higher than nine, the lakes are limited by phosphorous, while ratio lower than nine, characterizes lakes limited by nitrogen.

In order to test the most influent environmental variables on the community attributes, the *Partial Least Squares* (PLS) (Carrascal et al. 2009) was used, with the aid of Statistica® 7.0 (StatSoft 2005) for the 15 samples points, with two dependent variable models, equitability (J') and the most dominant taxa obtained, seeking the best descriptors to explain structure and composition of the macroinvertebrates community. The statistical variables (factors) are composed by linear offsets relationships between the observed variables and the classification according to ecological significance, which must be based on literature concepts (Hair et al. 2009).

To infer about the water quality using the macroinvertebrate's community it was done the BMWP' index (Biological Monitoring Work Party System), modified by Toniolo et al. (2001), which considers the macroinvertebrate's tolerance to organic matter, and EPT (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera), which considers these taxa proportions among other taxonomic groups (Silveira 2004). In this work, the comparison of EPT was with Chironomidae taxon.

Results

MF1 represented the macrophytes occurrence between 0-25% of water surface, MF2 was to an occurrence of 26-51%, MF3 was to 52-75% of occurrence, and MF4 was to an occurrence between 76-100%. So, MF4 has occurred in 46% of the points, whereas more than 50% of the points did not have expressive macrophytes contribution (MF1, MF2, MF3). The vegetation presence surrounding was carried out in four intervals according to the main composition, where grass and shrubs composed (RV2) 46% of lakes, whereas complex vegetation, which composition was of grass, shrubs and trees (RV3), occurred in 40%. The exclusive grass presence in composition (RV1) and the absence of plants around (RV0) occurred only in 14% of the sampled lakes (Table 1, 2). The margin development index (Ds) presented perfectly circular (Ds1) (26%) and circular (Ds2) (66.6%) patterns in most. Dendritic pattern (Ds3) was the least occurrence (6.6%) (Table 2).

There was little variation about parameters water temperature, altitude and pH among the sampled lakes (VC=3%, 0,1% and 4%, respectively). The other limnological variables were heterogeneous among the lakes, being the variation coefficient to the DO=39%, DOC=65%, total phosphate=89%, BO_5 and orthophosphate=94%, turbidity=116%, nitrite=153%, total nitrogen=164% (Table 3).

The Table 3 also shows the nitrogen phosphorous ratio, demonstrating that eleven of the fifteen sample points are limited by phosphorous. The highest ratio was observed in lakes without macrophytes (PT3 and PT13). The sample points PT5, PT8, PT11 and PT14 were limited by nitrogen. The points PT8, PT11 and PT14 had a large amount of macrophytes, which are very efficient in nitrogen fixation.

The fauna of both lakes was composed by 9054 macroinvertebrates, distributed in 133 taxa, between family and genus taxonomic levels (Figure 2). The insects were identified, always that possible, in genus level (Table 4) and the other individuals, to the lowest possible taxonomic level (Table 5).

Oligochaeta (48.1%) and Chironomidae (17.16%) were the most abundant in community, and both taxa were registered in all of sampled points. Chironomidae presented the highest percentage abundance among collected insects (17.6%). The genus *Monopelopia* sp. (Diptera: Chironomidae: Tanypodinae) was a strong contributor to macroinvertebrates community in the three most abundant sample points.

The PT14 presented the higher abundance, with 1442 organisms, being oligochaets (675) and quironomids (490) the most abundant taxa, followed by points PT4 (1429) and PT15 (881). PT15 had the highest richness (58), and also Margalef index. Oligochaeta was the most abundant in PT15 too. It is relevant to consider that points PT14 and PT15, besides abundant macrophytes presence and complex riparian vegetation, these points receive Iguaçu river's water during flood period.

Ecological indexes were not weighty different among the 15 sampled points (ANOVA) ($F = 0.49$; $df = 22.17$; $p = 0.90$). Each one presented a peculiar pattern about the macroinvertebrates community attributes variation. The highest diversity was obtained to PT15, whereas the lowest, in PT13. Lowest dominance occurred in PT11 and PT7, as well, the highest equitability values (Table 6).

There was little range among richness, dominance, Margalef richness and equitability. In all cases, the range was very close to mean, being registered to richness the mean 34 (sd = 13.4), to dominance, mean of 0.3 (sd = 0.1), to Margalef's richness mean of 5.4 (sd = 1.5) and to equitability, the mean of 0.5 (sd = 0.1). The individuals abundance (N) presented the highest range among the sampled lakes, 556 (sd = 424.3) (Table 7).

Table 1. Descriptive characteristics from the 15 sample points where MF = macrophytes presence (*1 – from 1 to 20% of water surface covering; *2 – from 21 to 40% of water surface covering; *3 – from 41 to 70% of water surface covering; *4 – from 71 to 100% of water surface covering) and RV = riparian vegetation (**1 – bushes, with more grass; **2 – bushes that ensure little shadowing; **3 – intact vegetation).

	Location	MF	RV	Characteristics
PT1	25° 36.406" S; 49° 17.435" W	All water surface *3	Trees and bushes **2	Establishment of the lagoon: 30 years
PT 2	25° 36.360" S; 49° 17.456" W	Near the margins*3	Trees and bushes **2	Establishment of the lagoon: 30 years
PT 3	25° 36.360" S; 49° 17.456" W	Absent*1	Grass **1	Establishment of the lagoon: 30 years
PT 4	25° 36.099" S; 45° 17.299" W	All water surface*4	Bushes and grass **1	
PT 5	25° 36.100" S; 49° 17.299" W	Near the margins (up to 30%)*2	**1	Brickwork on one margin
PT 6	25° 36.109" S; 49° 17.304" W	Near the margins (up to 30%)*2	Grass **1	Brickwork all around it
PT 7	25° 36.136" S; 49° 17.298" W	All water surface *4	Bushes and grass **1	30 years Presence of erosion Brickwork on the margin
PT 8	25° 36.114 "S; 49° 17.342" W	Almost all water surface (50%) *3	Trees and bushes **2	Not deep; River's fragment
PT 9	25° 36.690 "S; 49° 17.423" W	50% of water surface *3	Trees **2	
PT 10	25° 38.718" S; 49° 17.201" W	40% of water surface *2	Bushes and trees **2	Next to the Iguaçu river canal
PT 11	25° 36.700" S; 49° 17.197" W	All water surface *4	Complex vegetation **3	Old part of the river, next to the river canal
PT 12	25° 36.397" S; 49° 16.845" W	Absent *1	Bushes and grass **1	
PT 13	25° 36.684" S; 49° 16.605" W	Absent *1	Complex vegetation **3	Iguaçu river's arm; Erosion Decomposition odor;
PT 14	25° 36.649" S; 49° 16.494" W	All water surface *4 Diverse macrophyte groups present	Complex vegetation **3	Presence of erosion Iguaçu river's arm
PT 15	25° 36.681" S; 49° 16.491" W	Almost all water surface *4	Complex vegetation **3	Presence of erosion on one margin; Iguaçu river's arm

Table 2. Qualitative considered variables among the 15 sampled point's characterization.

Rank	Rank occurrence among the lakes (%)
RV0	6.6
RV1	6.6
RV2	46.6
RV3	40
MF1	40
MF2	13.3
MF3	0
MF	46.6
Ds1	26.6
Ds2	66.6
Ds3	6.6

Partial Least Square analysis (PLS) was conducted since databases from each sample point, in view of the equitability (J') difference among the lakes. Table 8 presents the variable meaningful and importance for each tested pit.

It is important to know how each variable contributes to the general statistical variance, explaining the involved factors. The productivity in a lentic environment is high when there is the occurrence of high BOD₅ and phosphates and nitrates, concomitantly (Esteves 1998, Dodds 2003). Thus, the factor analysis provided that axis x as the environment productivity. PT2, PT5, PT6, PT9, PT11, PT14 and PT15 were related to productivity because they presented the highest values to those variables, as opposed to what happens in other points (Table 3).

Equitability values were higher when the productivity increased (Figure 3), which can be observed by the PLS analysis, that presented high statistical significance in the first and second principal components. The observed eigenvalues were equal in the two principal components (2,64), with an explicability of 24%. It can be explained by BOD₅, phosphorous, ortho-phosphate, nitrite,

Table 3. Physical and chemical parameters of water and the average values among the 15 studied points in July/2009 where T (H₂O) = water temperature; T = turbidity; DO = dissolved oxygen; pH = hydrogenionic potential; BOD₅ = biochemistry oxygen demand; TP = total phosphates; O-P = ortho-phosphate; DOC = dissolved organic carbon; NO₂⁻ = nitrite. NT/PT= Reason between nitrogen and phosphorous to determinate the limiting fator to the productivity in the 15 sampled lakes.

Sample points	T (H ₂ O) (°C)	T (NTU)	OD (mg/L)	pH	DBO ₅ (mg/L)	TP (µg/L)	O-P (µg/L)	DOC (mg/L)	NT (µg/L)	NO ₂ ⁻ (µg/L)	NT/PT
PT1	15	21.3	7.638	7.81	2.6	26.7	9.9	12.7	444.02	6.5	16,6
PT2	15	67	8.44	7.64	2.6	54.32	16.8	4.2	529.27	7.7	9,7
PT3	15	11.8	6.4	7.65	9.4	19.9	12.3	10.5	500.85	3.8	25,2
PT4	16	16.2	4.8	6.9	6.6	24.4	9.2	4.5	292.09	3	11,9
PT5	14.5	306	7.23	7.43	4.08	135	6.8	1.8	765.17	21.1	5,7
PT6	15	20.7	8.84	7.58	13.44	29.1	17.7	3.1	410.26	2.9	14,1
PT7	15	133	6.43	7.44	4	57.8	41.6	1.8	571.58	6.1	9,9
PT8	15	17.6	10.05	7.18	2.6	56.5	14.3	2.7	104.32	6.6	1,8
PT9	15	26.5	8.44	7.57	2.7	40.3	14.6	4	418.38	7.8	10,4
PT10	16	22.5	7.63	7.62	6.8	28.9	8.8	2.7	260.47	7	9,0
PT11	16	47.8	6.43	7.55	2.7	39.2	22.2	3.1	348.29	4.3	8,9
PT12	15	97.7	8.44	7.93	1.4	75.3	33.4	4	725.39	6.3	9,6
PT13	16	38.2	2.01	7.2	14.7	252	92.2	6.6	6252.1	67.8	24,8
PT14	15.5	46.2	1.201	6.94	28.1	165	62.4	7.6	966.08	4.9	5,8
PT15	15.5	117	4.02	6.86	14.8	85.8	17.7	3.6	1175.2	4.9	13,7
Mean	15.3	66.0	6.5	7.4	7.8	72.7	25.3	4.9	917.6	10.7	
SD	0.5	76.7	2.5	0.3	7.3	64.8	23.7	3.2	1501.7	16.4	
IC -95%	15.03	23.47	5.13	7.24	3.72	36.80	12.17	3.10	85,97	1.65	
IC +95%	15.57	108.47	7.93	7.60	11.81	108.56	38.48	6.62	1749,16	19.78	

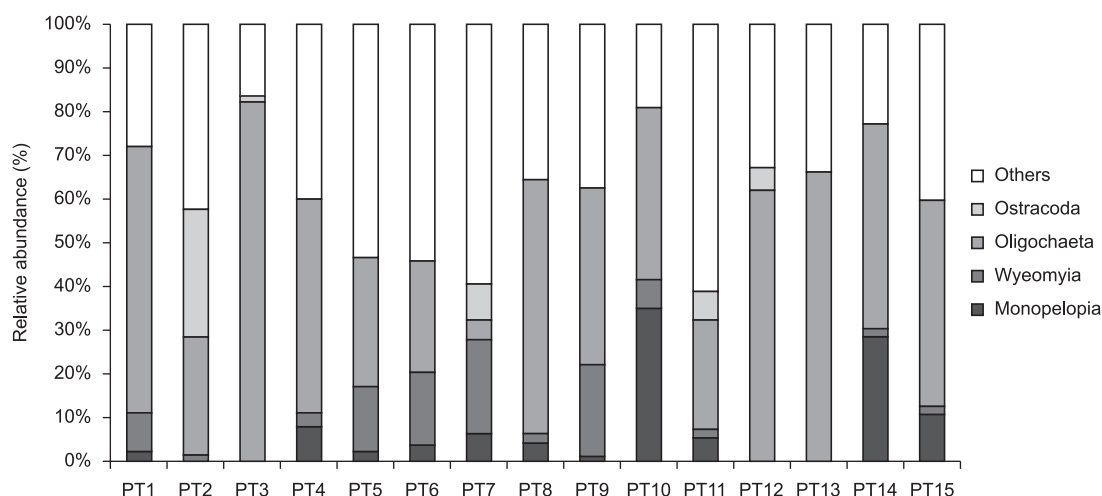


Figure 2. Taxa with more than 5% of abundance and occurrence in more than three sampled points.

and abundant ciliar vegetation grouping, opposed to DO and pH. DO and COD were influent variables, as well as dense ciliar vegetation.

Chironomidae, Oligochaeta and Ostracoda had the higher relative abundances. Due to this importance, the PLS was conducted to these taxa as dependent variables, and as well as equitability response, the productivity was the explicative factor (Figures 4, 5 and 6). The most influent variables are ranked in Table 4.

The realized analyses to Chironomidae and Ostracoda did not present statistical significance to the two first components, so, we

assumed to analyze only the first principal component. The eigenvalue to Chironomidae was 2,93, assuming an explicability of only 24%. To Ostracoda the eigenvalue to the first component was 2,93, with an explicability of 25%. Thus, this analysis demonstrated a low explicability to Chironomidae and Ostracoda. It is noteworthy that the lakes with higher macrophytes' frequency (51-75% and 76-100%) had higher representativeness and, because of this, had higher explicability power. The analysis on Ostracoda was significant to

Table 4. Total entomofauna's observed frequency (TEF) among the 15 sampled lakes.

Taxa	Genus	TEF (%)	Taxa	Genus	TEF (%)
Ephemeroptera			Mesoveliidae	<i>Mesovellia</i>	13
Ephemeroptera		13	Naucoridae	<i>Pelocoris</i>	7
Baetidae	<i>Apobaetis</i>	27	Notonectidae	<i>Notonecta</i>	27
Caenidae	<i>Caenis</i>	60	Pleidae	<i>Paraplea</i>	20
Leptohyphidae	<i>Tricorythopsis</i>	7	Lepidoptera		
Leptohyphidae	<i>Traverypes</i>	7	Noctuidae		13
Leptohyphidae	<i>Leptohyphodes</i>	20	Pyrilidae	<i>Crambus</i>	27
Leptophlebiidae	<i>Traverella</i>	13	Trichoptera		
Odonata			Hydroptilidae	<i>Neotrichia</i>	20
Aeshnidae	<i>Castoaeschna</i>	20	Polycentropodidae	<i>Cyrnellus</i>	7
Aeshnidae	<i>Coryphaesna</i>	7	Coleoptera		
Aeshnidae	<i>Limnetron</i>	7	Chrysomelidae	<i>Disonycha</i>	7
Coenagrionidae	<i>Ischnura</i>	7	Curculionidae		27
Coenagrionidae	<i>Oxyagrion</i>	20	Curculionidae	<i>Listronotus</i>	7
Coenagrionidae	<i>Telebasis</i>	100	Curculionidae	<i>Lixus</i>	27
Dicteriadidae	<i>Eleocharis</i>	7	Dytiscidae	<i>Acilius</i>	20
Lestidae	<i>Lestes</i>	20	Dytiscidae	<i>Hygrospus</i>	20
Libellulidae	<i>Erythrodiplax</i>	73	Elmidae		7
Libellulidae	<i>Brechmorhoga</i>	67	Elmidae	<i>Hexanchorus</i>	13
Perilestidae	<i>Perilestes</i>	7	Halipidae	<i>Halipus</i>	13
Protoneuridae	<i>Epipleoneura</i>	7	Hydrophilidae		7
Protoneuridae	<i>Neoneura</i>	13	Hydrophilidae	<i>Berosus</i>	7
Heteroptera			Hydrophilidae	<i>Dibolocelus</i>	40
Belostomatidae	<i>Belostoma</i>	27	Hydrophilidae	<i>Helobata</i>	87
Corixidae	<i>Cymatia</i>	27	Lampyridae		60
Corixidae	<i>Tenaglobia</i>	33	Melolonthidae		13
Hebridae	<i>Hebrus</i>	13	Noteridae	<i>Hydrocanthus</i>	13
Taxa	Subfamily/Genus	TEF (%)	Taxa	Subfamily/Genus	TEF (%)
Noteridae	<i>Pronoterus</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Caladomyia</i>	27
Scirtidae	<i>Microcara</i>	40	Chironomidae	<i>Chironomus</i>	27
Staphilinidae	<i>Pontamalota</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Cryptochironomus</i>	7
Diptera			Chironomidae	<i>Dicrotendipes</i>	7
Muscidae		7	Chironomidae	<i>Harnischia</i>	13
Ceratopogonidae	<i>Dasyhelea</i>	27	Chironomidae	<i>Parachironomus</i>	33
Ceratopogonidae	<i>Probezzia</i>	80	Chironomidae	<i>Polypedilum</i>	27
Ceratopogonidae	<i>Stilobezzia</i>	33	Chironomidae	<i>Rheotanytarsus</i>	7
Chaoboridae	<i>Chaoborus</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Tanytarsus</i>	27
Culicidae	<i>Aedes</i>	13	Chironomidae	<i>Tanytarsini gen A</i>	20
Culicidae	<i>Anopheles</i>	27	Chironomidae	Orthocladinae	53
Culicidae	<i>Culiseta</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Corynoneura</i>	7
Culicidae	<i>Mansonia</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Cricotopus</i>	7
Culicidae	<i>Toxorhynchites</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Parametriocnemus</i>	13
Culicidae	<i>Wyeomyia</i>	87	Chironomidae	Tanypodinae	80
Dixidae	<i>Dixa</i>	7	Chironomidae	Procladini	7
Empididae		20	Chironomidae	<i>Djalmabatista</i>	13
Ephydriidae		7	Chironomidae	<i>Ablabesmyia</i>	53
Sciomyzidae	<i>Tetanocera</i>	13	Chironomidae	<i>Clinotanypus</i>	7
Stratiomidae	<i>Euparyphus</i>	53	Chironomidae	<i>Coelotanypus</i>	27
Stratiomidae	<i>Mixosargus</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Labrundinia</i>	73
Syrphidae		7	Chironomidae	<i>Larsia</i>	67
Tabanidae	<i>Chrysops</i>	73	Chironomidae	<i>Monopelopia</i>	73
Tipulidae		20	Chironomidae	<i>Pentaneura</i>	20
Chironomidae	Chironominae		Chironomidae	<i>Tanypus</i>	20
Chironomidae	<i>Aedokritus</i>	27	Chironomidae	<i>Thienemannimyia</i>	53
Chironomidae	<i>Beardius</i>	7	Chironomidae	<i>Zavrelimyia</i>	13

Table 5. Total macroinvertebrates' observed frequency (TF) except insects among the 15 sampled lakes.

Taxa	Genus	TF (%)
Oligochaeta		100
Hirudinea		87
Glossiphoniidae		0
Bivalvia		27
Platyhelminthes		13
Nematoda		7
Mollusca		7
Mollusca Mycetopodidae	<i>Anodontites</i>	7
Mollusca Ampullariidae	<i>Pomacea</i>	27
Mollusca Physidae	<i>Physa</i>	60
Mollusca Planorbidae	<i>Biomphalaria</i>	60
Mollusca Planorbidae	<i>Drepanotrema</i>	7
Mollusca Gastropoda		7
Mollusca Gastropoda Ampullariidae		13
Mollusca Gastropoda Ancyliidae		7
Hydracarina		40
Cladocera		87
Copepoda		20
Crustacea Isopoda	<i>Hyaella</i>	13
Amphipoda		7
Isopoda		13
Crustacea Decapoda	<i>Macrobrachium</i>	13
Ostracoda		80
Collembola		27

Table 6. Macrofauna attributes in Alto Iguaçu pits, where S = taxonomic richness; N = total abundance; D = dominance; d = Margalef richness index, and J' = equitability.

Sample points	S	N	D	d	J'
PT1	46	666	0.39	6.92	0.47
PT2	21	116	0.19	4.21	0.68
PT3	24	342	0.67	3.94	0.31
PT4	50	1429	0.26	6.74	0.55
PT5	32	553	0.15	4.91	0.67
PT6	42	622	0.14	6.37	0.65
PT7	20	160	0.12	3.74	0.80
PT8	24	242	0.36	4.19	0.55
PT9	43	527	0.21	6.70	0.61
PT10	33	608	0.28	4.99	0.52
PT11	32	259	0.11	5.58	0.77
PT12	16	55	0.39	3.74	0.60
PT13	22	438	0.46	3.45	0.42
PT14	53	1442	0.30	7.15	0.46
PT15	58	881	0.24	8.40	0.58

Table 7. Descriptive statistics to the ecological indexes.

	Mean	Confidence -95,000%	Confidence +95,000%	Variance	Std.Dev.
S	34.4	27.0	41.8	180.1	13.4
N	556	321	791	180050.1	424.3
Dm	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.2
d	5.4	4.5	6.3	2.4	1.5
J'	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.1

the two first components, presenting eigenvalues of 3,41 and 1,70, respectively.

In all the done analysis was possible to observe that the first principal component defined the data variability depending on the trophic level. In lakes with low pH, OD and reduced macrophytes' frequency we understood as low productivity, indicating low trophic level.

There were not environments with good or excellent water quality according to the BMWP'. The most sample points were classified in acceptable or questionable, while the PT2 was classified in very critical water quality (Table 9).

The Plecoptera Order was absent in all sample points. Trichoptera was rare in PT2, PT3, PT6 and PT10 (n = 1) as well in PT4 (n = 6). Ephemeroptera was not sampled in PT1, PT11, PT13 and PT14, occurring in all others (always with less than 2% of contribution to the community). On the other hand, Chironomidae was sampled in all sample points. All the sample points showed a reason smaller than one to this metric, evidencing a commitment of water quality (Table 9).

Discussion

The *Monopelopia sp.* abundance can be related to macrophyte abundance, due to this taxon morphological adaptation to colonize these aquatic plants, as registered by Armitage et al. (1995). Peiró & Alvez (2006) related all the macroinvertebrates community from the Ribeirão das Anhumas dam's littoral region with macrophytes disposition, considering the food supply and shelter as advantages to the occurrence. Indeed, the organisms' richness was very represented by the detected portion of aquatic plants. The vegetation in shoreline favors the littoral zone, especially in lentic environments, because they provide a diverse habitat, increasing the richness, and other ecological indexes (Ward 1992, Corgosinho et al. 2004).

Assireu et al. (2009) suggest that higher margin development index, greater the aquatic community establishment probability and greater the catchment interference. Our study has not confirmed this pattern, because the index was not explicative factor nor even to community structure or to the three more dominants taxa (Chironomidae, Oligochaeta and Ostracoda). So, this variable was excluded from analysis, as well macrophytes and the altitude.

In spite of macrophytes exclusion from analysis, the highest equitability values were observed in those points with more than 30% of water surface covered by them. The reduced macrophyte presence in some points permitted to note the association between macrophytes and complex riparian vegetation. However, elevated quironomid and oligochaete density were found in lakes with all water surface covered by aquatic plants and complex riparian vegetation surrounding. This emphasizes the macrophytes and riparian vegetation association as an important ecological role to macroinvertebrate's community.

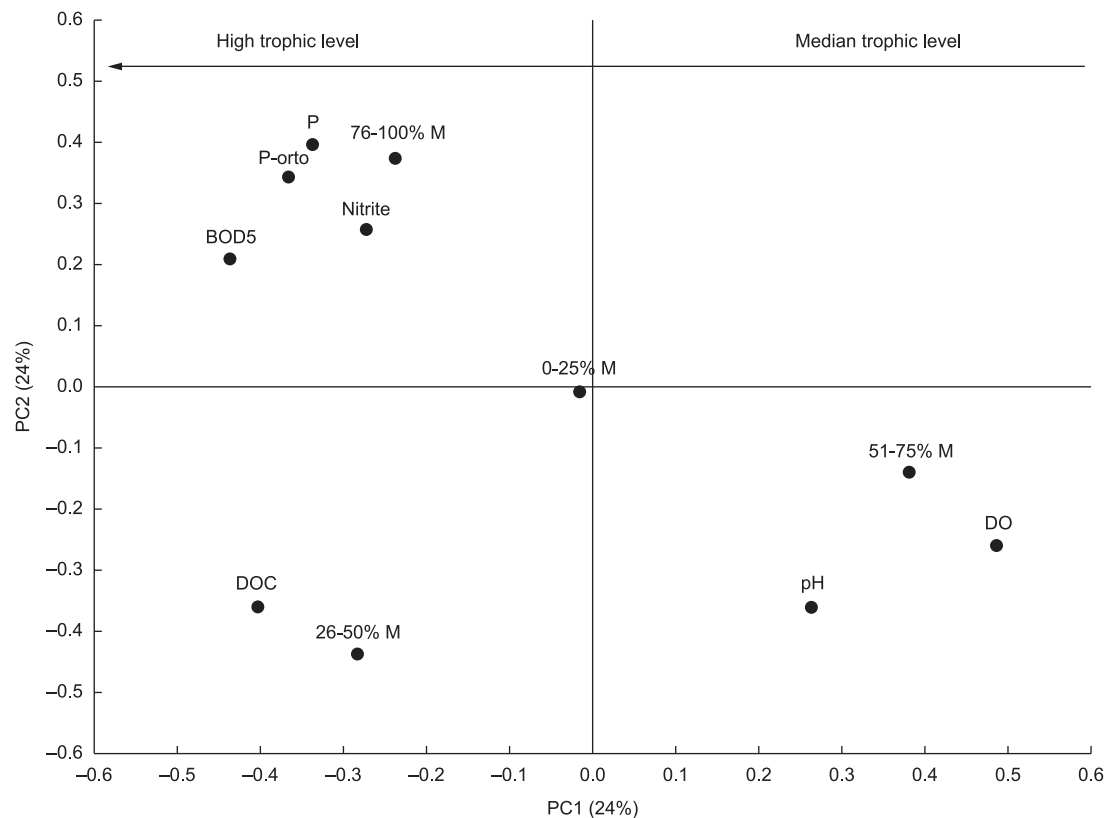
Weatherhead & James (2001) verified that depth, turbidity and flood peaks were not influent factors on the macroinvertebrate's abundance and distribution; however the suspended solids modified the macrophytes. Macrophytes are related to nutrients supply, even in oligotrophic lakes (Weatherhead & James 2001), to egg deposition and refuge to these animals, besides to be an important factor to habitat heterogeneity (Jackson 1997, Higuti & Takeda 2002). Macrophytes architectonic types have explained the abundance variation of macrofauna in lakes (Cheruvilil et al. 2000), besides to support the distribution pattern. In shallow ecosystems these plants assume a more relevant ecological role, since they can colonize all the environments and increase the primary production rate (Cervi et al. 2009).

The observed macrophyte quantity and riparian vegetation density permit to infer that the two parameters together increase the shading on the water body, as consequence, take to lower productivity in water,

Table 8. Partial Least Square (PLS) results to the 15 Alto Iguaçu lake's attributes community for the most explicative factors to taxa equitability (J') and abundance (Chironomidae, Oligochaeta e Ostracoda). The highlighted factors are the three first ones in relation to importance, pointed by the analysis.

Variables	J'		Chironomidae		Oligochaeta		Ostracoda	
	Pw	Imp	Pw	Imp	Pw	Imp	Pw	Imp
T(H ₂ O) (°C)	*	*	*	*	0.44	10	0.13	9
Turbidity	*	*	*	*	0.17	12	0.001	12
DO (mg/L)	0.81	1	0.77	2	0.79	1	0.68	2
pH	0.52	7	0.78	1	0.62	4	0.33	7
BOD ₅	0.61	6	0.7	3	0.57	6	0.5	5
Total Phosphate (mg/L)	0.7	4	0.31	6	0.74	2	0.76	1
Ortho-phosphate (mg/L)	0.66	5	0.29	7	0.74	3	0.65	3
DOC (mg/L)	0.77	2	0.01	11	0.18	11	0.07	10
Nitrite (mg/L)	0.36	10	0.05	9	0.59	5	0.52	4
CV	0.72	3	0.01	10	0.08	13		
R² of x	0.3		0.34		0.32		0.33	
p	<0.05		>0.05		<0.05		>0.05	
Variance (%)	85		81		96		38	

Pw= Power (analysis influence). Imp = Importance (relevant rank).

**Figure 3.** PLS analysis indicating observed variables weight on components 1 and 2, and its relationships to macroinvertebrates equitability distribution among the points.

but in the other hand keep constant temperature and inhibit algae bloom (Silans 2003). In natural non-eutrophic lakes, the vegetation and shallowness are more efficient in phosphorous conversion to biomass disposed to phytoplankton, even the primary production is constant (Nixdorf & Deneke 1997).

Dissolved oxygen is one of the most important variables in limnological characterization due to its chemical reaction participation in water (Tundisi & Matsumura-Tundisi 2008), and it can be controlled by macrophytes in as much as they metabolize 16 to 34% of Total Phosphates and nitrogen in a lacustrine system (Carpenter

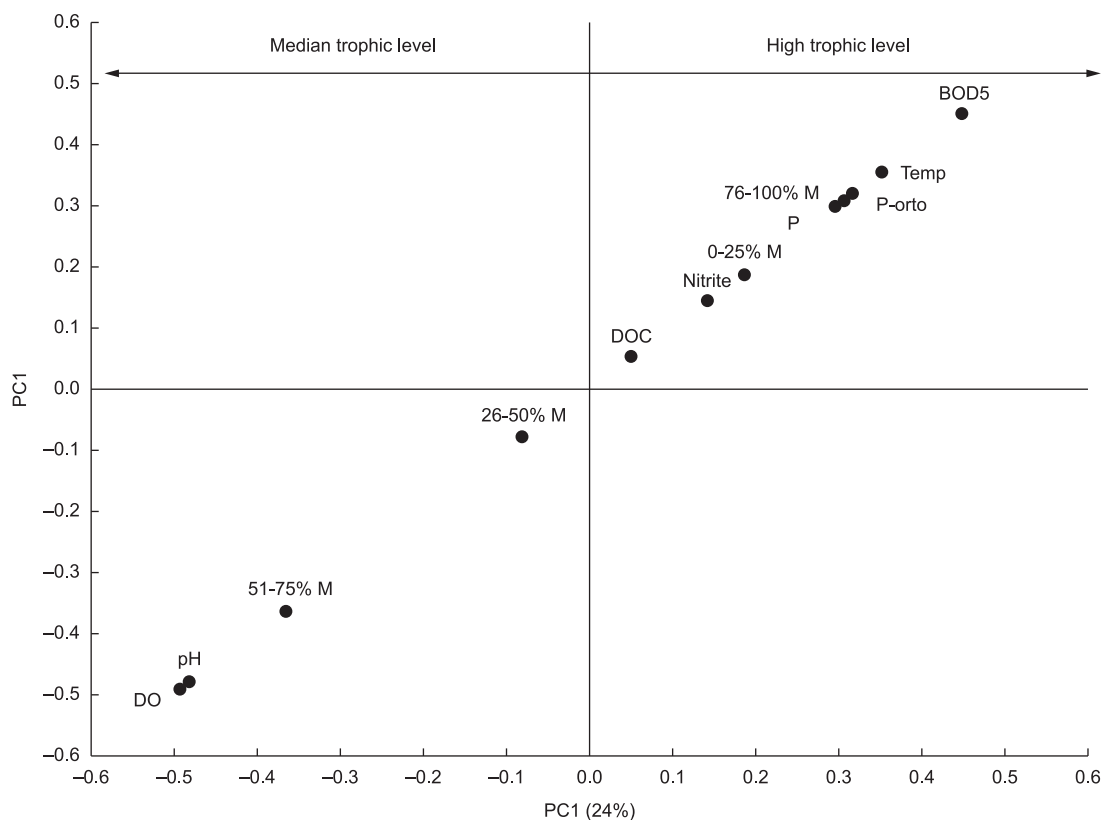


Figure 4. PLS analysis indicating observed variables weight on components 1 and 2, and its relationships to Chironomidae dominance.

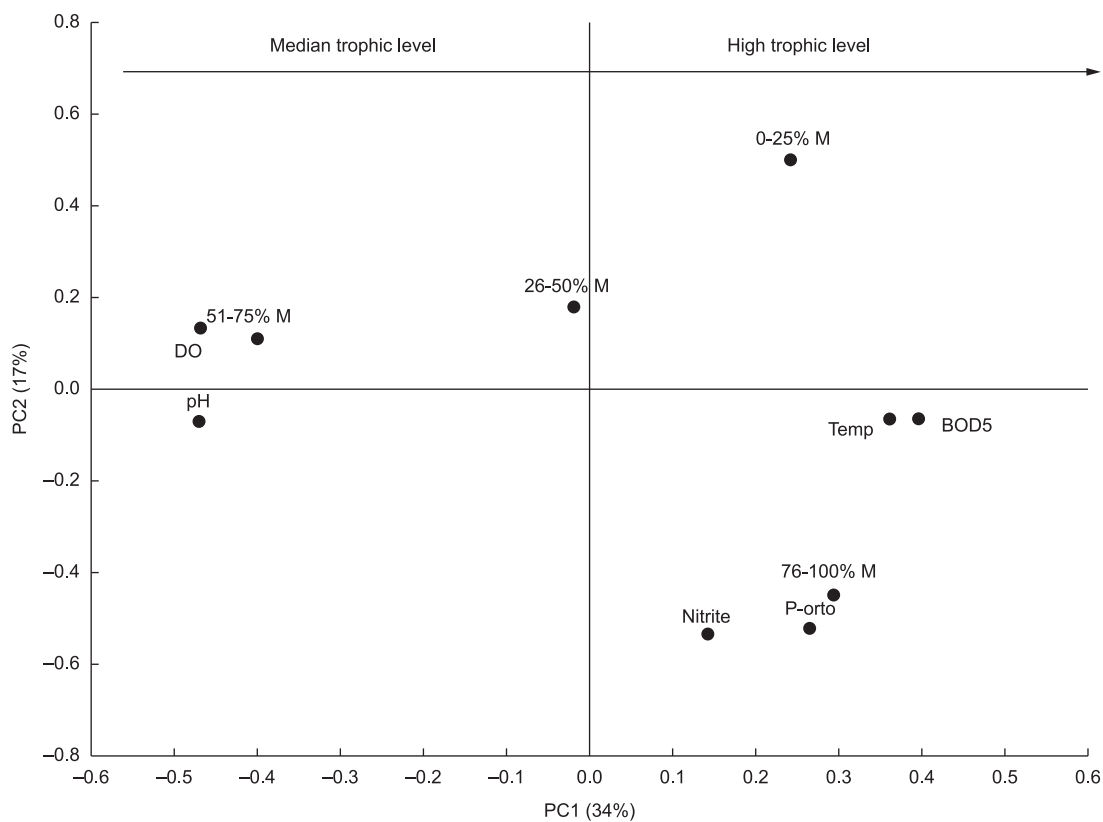


Figure 5. PLS analysis indicating observed variables weight on components 1 and 2, and its relationships to Oligochaeta dominance.

Aquatic Invertebrate's community in lakes from the Alto Iguaçu

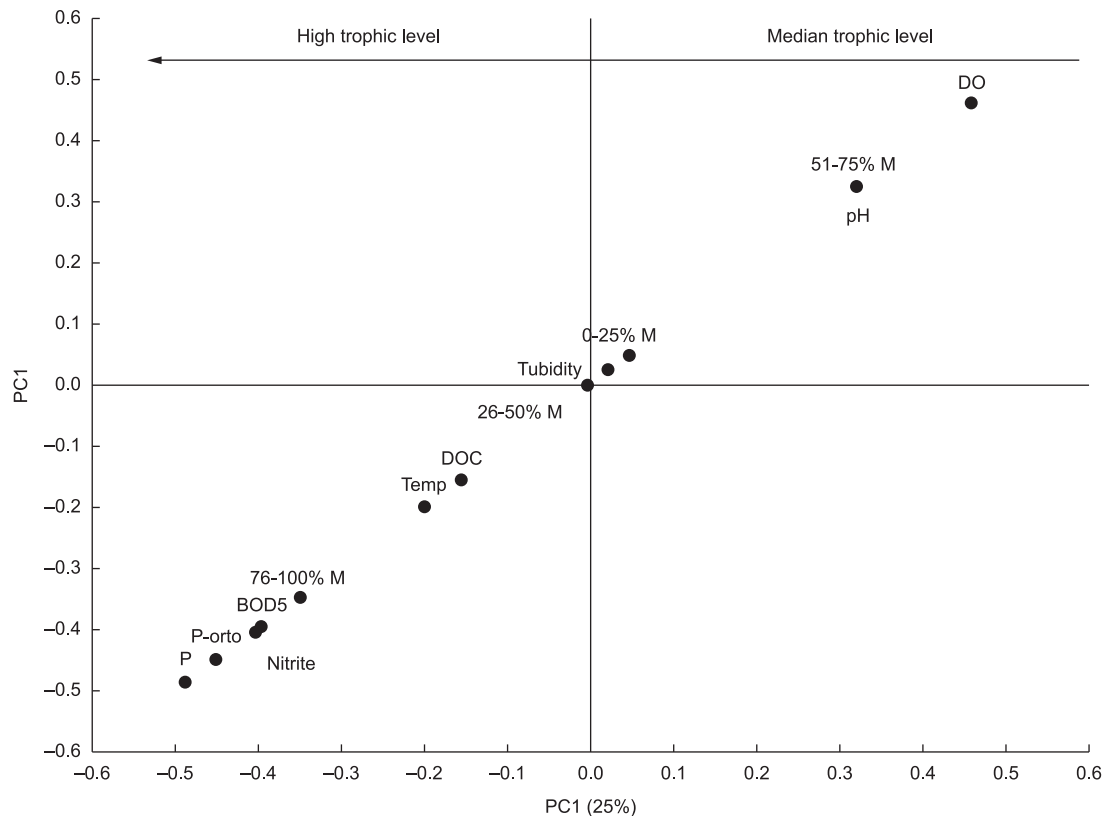


Figure 6. PLS analysis indicating observed variables weight on components 1 and 2, and its relationships to Ostracoda dominance.

Table 9. Biological indexes values to water quality in the 15 sample points from the Alto Iguaçu region. EPT/C = reason between the proportion of Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera taxa in relation to Chironomidae. BMWP* = Biological Monitoring Work Party System, where acceptable water quality = moderated evidences of pollution; Doubtful = polluted waters (altered systems), and Critical = much polluted waters (very altered systems).

Sample points	EPT/C	BMWP*	Quality
	Value	Value	
PT1	0,014	78	Acceptable
PT2	0,2	31	Critical
PT3	0,04	62	Acceptable
PT4	0,198	92	Acceptable
PT5	0,044	48	Doubtful
PT6	0,071	65	Acceptable
PT7	0,142	46	Doubtful
PT8	0,017	31	Critical
PT9	0,03	77	Acceptable
PT10	0,02	57	Doubtful
PT11	0	54	Doubtful
PT12	0,5	27	Critical
PT13	0	48	Doubtful
PT14	0	85	Acceptable
PT15	0,077	95	Acceptable

& Adams 1977), increases the exponential growth rate, which one provides oxidation and limits the radiation to biota because releases phosphorous, and consequently, suspended solids (Thiébaud 2008). Wetzel (1984) assumes that aquatic macrophytes can act increasing or reducing DOC. In this study, we observed that, lowest macrophyte distribution on water surface, conducted to higher DOC rate (PT1 and PT3), while highest presence of this plant on water, indicated lowest DOC.

Profundal zones tend to homogeneity and oxygen depletion, especially in stratified lakes. Still the littoral zone presents more spatial heterogeneity, favoring biomass accumulation and greater diversity. It makes the littoral zone to fluctuate more, requiring population adaptations and fluctuations in reduced time (Tundisi & Matsumura-Tundisi 2008).

Several studies show the relationship among productivity and phosphorous and nitrogen availability, indicating the phosphorous as limiting nutrient to this process (Schilling & Lockaby 2006). Brauns et al. (2007) observed that while a community part was related to organic matter and conductivity reduction, there was another positively related to phosphorous. For these authors, the relation with phosphorous infers about productivity and, therefore, the macroinvertebrate's composition was associated to system productivity. Lenat & Rawford (1994) show that macroinvertebrates abundance increases according to productivity in agricultural streams. It is expected that the macroinvertebrate's community variability be great as more complex is the habitat, permitting a wild niche (Heino 2000, Harrison & Hildrew 2001).

The dominance displayed by Chironomidae and Oligochaeta is common (Bazzanti et al. 2000, Abílio et al. 2005) including its relationship to eutrophic environments (Buckup et al. 2007,

O'Toole et al. 2008), since they are organisms with a wild plasticity about available resources. Besides, another relevant factor are these two groups biological features, like respiratory pigment (hemoglobin) and body movement that optimizes the oxygen catchment from environment (Higuti & Takeda 2002), even in very depleted concentrations. According to Fuller & Cowell (1985) the quironomids larvae are r-strategists and inhabit areas with a very variable conditions range, what justifies their advantage among the lake's analyses.

Investigations about oligochaete's abundance indicate higher values of this taxon in lentic samples, especially in profundal zones (sediment) (Milbrink et al. 2002), also occurring relationship between the oligochaete's abundance in accordance of organic pollution (Lang 1997, 1998). Corbi (2001) found that in oligotrophic reservoirs the benthic fauna was composed of fewer than 20% oligochaetes, whereas Pamplin (1999) registered a fauna composition of 73% by oligochaetes in hypertrophic lentic habitats.

The taxonomic diversity shows sensibility when the communities are exposed to habitat alterations or to any environmental stress (Andrade 2009) like the ones in water quality. Among the analyzed lakes, there were sample points classified as acceptable, to water quality through the BMW^P index (PT4 and PT15), which also had the highest values to diversity index. According to Barbosa et al. (2001) the presence of some groups like Baetidae, Odonata, Ephemeroptera and Trichoptera is associated to macrophytes, so this community reflects an elevated nutrients availability, and as already mentioned, the Chironomidae dominance is, many times, associated to environmental degradation (Fuller & Cowell 1985), the own BMW^P's score is very low (1). Thus, the dataset presented here, be the comparisons between the structure and community composition, be the association of those with the physical and chemical water characteristics or the water evaluation through saprobiotic index, show that, these lakes, although the invertebrates colonization occurs, have low degree of environmental integrity, selecting, this way, the taxonomic groups found in each sample point.

Conclusions

The lakes presented different environmental conditions, and especially about chemical variables, the variance was conducted according to the connection to Iguaçu River's channel, besides the macrophytes presence. The variable set was explained by the ecosystem productivity. This factor was strongly influent on distribution of macroinvertebrates community, even if we had not significance difference among ecological indexes.

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