

Abundance and Distribution of Herpetofaunal Resources in Abeokuta, Nigeria.



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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the abundance and distribution of herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) in Abeokuta, Ogun state, Nigeria. A total of 16,971 herpetofaunal samples belonging to two classes (Amphibia and Reptilia), four orders and twelve families were encountered during this study. Annual population distribution of reptiles and amphibians in the study area, based on phyletic structure, showed that Lacertidae was highest in abundance (48.11%), followed by Agamidae (23.98%). The least abundant family was Emydidae (0.02%). It was observed that even though Abeokuta North local government area had higher mean distribution value ($X \pm SE = 43.52 \pm 8.52$) of herpetofauna than Abeokuta South ($X \pm SE = 35.05 \pm 7.66$), there was no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in their means. Mean population of herpetofaunal species in eight ecological sites studied: home area, farm-land area, open-land area, rocky area, shrubby area, forest area, riverside area, grassy area and marshy area were 108.77 ± 28.64 , 45.44 ± 13.17 , 42.48 ± 14.11 , 41.38 ± 13.14 , 37.04 ± 10.97 , 31.88 ± 8.64 , 23.54 ± 5.32 , 13.17 ± 3.91 and 9.65 ± 2.66 respectively. Environmental education, awareness campaign, forest and habitat preservation, afforestation, creation of wildlife reserve areas, promotion of herpetofaunal resources management and development researches and conscious and continuous domestication programmes for herpetofauna in the study area were part of suggested recommendations.

Keywords: Abundance; Distribution; Ecological sites