

1 **INTER-ANNUAL VARIATION OF OSTRACOD (CRUSTACEA) COMMUNITIES**
2 **IN THE UPPER PARANÁ RIVER FLOODPLAIN, BRAZIL**
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6 Running title: *Inter-annual variation of ostracod (Crustacea) communities*
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23 **Abstract**

24 Riverine floodplains have a large environmental heterogeneity, with lentic and lotic environments and a
25 variety of aquatic macrophytes, providing habitat for various aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Here, we
26 evaluate species composition and beta diversity of ostracod communities over a period of 14 years in two
27 permanently connected lakes (Patos and Guaraná) and two rivers (Ivinhema and Baía) of the Upper Paraná
28 River floodplain. We predict that the ostracod species composition differs in both types of environments
29 amongst the years, and that beta diversity changes over time. Thirty-eight ostracod species were recorded,
30 including new taxa that remain to be described. The change in ostracod species composition over time may
31 be a result of natural or anthropogenic events occurring in the floodplain, in addition to the influence of local
32 abiotic factors. The sequence of floods and droughts might also explain the difference in the contribution of
33 replacement (turnover) and richness difference (loss or gain) components over time. These results show the
34 importance of long-term research to understand the temporal dynamics of the communities, mainly in dam-
35 regulated floodplains.

36

37 **Keywords:** macrophytes; micro-crustacean; species composition; turnover.

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39

40 INTRODUCTION

41 Riverine floodplains, such as the Upper Paraná River floodplain, are suitable to investigate changes in
42 aquatic communities since they have high environmental heterogeneity (e.g. permanent and isolated lakes,
43 rivers, channels) and support high aquatic biodiversity. The importance of such floodplains for the
44 conservation of biodiversity and for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystem functioning is widely recognized.
45 Therefore, three conservation units were created in the Upper Paraná River floodplain, in addition to its
46 inclusion as Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve by MAB/Unesco (Agostinho *et al.* 2004).

47 The dynamics of this ecosystem are influenced by the operation of several reservoirs located upstream. The
48 changes in water levels in the Paraná River can occur on short time scales, such as daily and weekly
49 oscillations owing to the demand for energy production by the reservoirs. Longer time scale dynamics, such
50 as changes in the period and intensity of annual floods, also occur during the rainy season, when water is
51 retained for use in the dry season (Agostinho *et al.* 2013).

52 Another factor that influences the dynamics of ecosystem processes in the Upper Paraná River floodplain is
53 the precipitation variation caused by the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon. These natural
54 events are of low recurrence (every three to seven years). Both groups of factors, the natural climatic
55 oscillations such as the El Niño/La Niña sequences and the anthropogenic effects such as the water-level
56 control by the reservoirs, can act in synergy on aquatic communities.

57 Short-term studies have shown that pleuston communities (living in root-systems of floating plants) are
58 buffered against the effects of flood pulses in a lentic environment of the Upper Paraná River floodplain
59 (Higuti *et al.* 2007). On the other hand, long-term studies (over seven years) in the same environment of this
60 floodplain showed that the ostracod communities are persistent during regular pulses but variable during
61 extreme floods (Conceição *et al.* 2018). In addition, extreme drought events (very low water levels) might
62 influence ostracod metacommunities and may lead to a higher beta-diversity owing to the lower connectivity
63 of the lakes (Campos *et al.* 2019).

64 One of the main questions in ecological studies is to identify the environmental (e.g. abiotic variables),
65 biological (e.g. biological traits) and ecological (e.g. predation, interactions) factors that can affect changes
66 in the attributes of aquatic communities at different temporal and spatial scales. For instance, the temporal
67 variation of the community structure can be the result of gradual or abrupt changes in environmental

68 conditions, including man-induced alterations (Shimadzu *et al.* 2015). Species composition can vary in time
69 and space. However, few studies have investigated such changes over longer time frames, although such
70 knowledge is relevant for the conservation and management of natural resources (Tilman 2000). Whittaker
71 (1960) introduced the term “beta diversity” and defined it as ‘the extent of change in community
72 composition’. Community ecology studies seek to understand the mechanisms of beta diversity (Anderson *et*
73 *al.* 2011), which drive the distribution of diversity through space and time (Jurasinski *et al.* 2009) and the
74 environmental patterns of variation during turnover (Anderson *et al.* 2006). Various ways to measure beta
75 diversity have been developed. According to Baselga (2010) and Legendre (2014), beta diversity may
76 actually comprise two different processes: species replacement (turnover) and richness differences (gain or
77 loss of species).
78 Here, we investigate species composition of ostracod communities over a period of 14 years in two lentic
79 and two lotic environments of the Upper Paraná River floodplain, as part of Long-Term Ecological Research,
80 site 6. We assess the beta diversity through species replacement and richness differences. We predict that the
81 variation in abiotic variables lead to differences in composition and beta-diversity over time. Besides, owing
82 to such variation, ostracod species are replaced over time, so the replacement component of beta-diversity is
83 the most important on ostracod community structure.

84

85 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

86 *Study area*

87 The Paraná River is the tenth longest river in the world (4695 km) and has a drainage area covering 2.8×10^6
88 km². The Paraná River flows through Brazil into the La Plata River in Argentina, and it is formed by the
89 confluence of the Paranaíba and Grande Rivers in south-central Brazil (Gomes & Miranda 2001, Agostinho
90 *et al.* 2004). The Upper Paraná River includes approximately the first third of the Paraná River Basin. It has
91 an extensive floodplain on its west side, which is 230 km long and more than 20 km wide between the Porto
92 Primavera Dam and the Itaipu Reservoir. The Upper Paraná River floodplain is the last dam-free stretch of
93 the entire Paraná River, where the 25 man-made reservoirs located into its basin affect 70% of the total
94 length of the river. The floodplain includes areas that are vital to biodiversity conservation (Ward *et al.* 1999,
95 Agostinho *et al.* 2000). In this area, three conservation units were created: “Área de Proteção Ambiental das

96 Ilhas e Várzeas do Rio Paraná” (100,310 ha; an Environmental Protection Area), the “Parque Nacional de
97 Ilha Grande” (78,800 ha; National Park), and the “Parque Estadual do Ivinheima” (70,000 ha; State Park).
98 The Paraná River floodplain, apart from the main channel of the Paraná River, also includes parts of the
99 Ivinhema and Baía rivers (Agostinho *et al.* 2004). Here, we investigate two rivers (Ivinhema and Baía) and
100 two permanently connected lakes (Patos and Guaraná; Figure 1).

101

102 *Sampling and laboratory analysis*

103 Periphytic ostracods (associated with aquatic macrophytes, *Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms, *E. azurea*
104 (Swartz) Kunth, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* L., *Limnobium laevigatum* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) Heine,
105 *Nymphaea amazonum* Mart. Et Zucc., *Pistia stratiotes* L., *Salvinia auriculata* Aubl., *S. herzogii* de la Sota.,
106 *S. minima* Baker and *Utricularia foliosa* L.) were sampled over a period of 14 years (between 2004 and
107 2018) in two lakes and two rivers of the Upper Paraná River floodplain. Samples were collected in March
108 and November 2004, January/February 2011, July 2012, March and September 2017, and March and
109 September 2018.

110 The aquatic macrophytes were hand collected and immediately placed in plastic buckets (Campos *et al.*
111 2017). The entire plants (*N. amazonum*, *Salvinia* spp., *U. foliosa*) and the roots (*Eichhornia* spp., *H.*
112 *ranunculoides*, *L. laevigatum*, *P. stratiotes*) were washed in the bucket to remove the ostracods. The
113 residuals were filtered in a hand net (mesh size c 160 µm). The samples were preserved in 70° ethanol
114 buffered with sodium tetraborate (borax). The roots or whole plants were stored in labelled plastic bags, and
115 subsequently dried and weighted in the lab to calculate ostracod densities. The emerging parts of the plants
116 were disregarded.

117 Ostracods were sorted under a stereoscopic microscope. Specimens were identified using valve (Scanning
118 Electron Microscopy) and appendage morphology (soft parts dissected in slides, studied with light
119 microscopy), following Martens & Behen (1994) and articles comprised therein, Rossetti & Martens (1998),
120 Higuti & Martens (2012a, b, 2014), Higuti *et al.* (2013) and Ferreira *et al.* (2020).

121 The physical and chemical variables of the water were measured *in situ* before the collection of ostracods, in
122 macrophyte patches. Water temperature (WT, °C) and dissolved oxygen (DO, mg L⁻¹) were measured with a
123 YSI 550A oximeter, pH and electrical conductivity (EC, µS cm⁻¹) with a YSI Model 63 meter. Water level
124 data were obtained from the LTER program (Long Term Ecological Research, site 6 -

125 <http://www.peld.uem.br>) developed by researchers of the Centre of Research in Limnology, Ichthyology, and
126 Aquaculture (Nupélia) from the State University of Maringá (UEM).

127

128 *Data analysis*

129 A principal component analysis (PCA) was applied to order the abiotic data set (water temperature (WT),
130 dissolved oxygen (DO), electrical conductivity (EC), pH and water level (WL)) in lakes and rivers of the
131 Upper Paraná River floodplain. Water levels were calculated from the daily means of six days preceding the
132 sampling. According to Thomaz *et al.* (2004), the covariation between limnological variables and the water
133 level is higher when considering the temporal average of water levels preceding the time of sampling. All
134 values were log transformed, except for pH, to minimize the effect of the dimensionality of the abiotic data
135 set. We standardize the abiotic data using the function `decostand` in the `vegan` package. Axes were selected
136 by the broken-stick method and the two selected axes (1 and 2) were used as response variables. A
137 Multivariate Permutational Variance Analysis (PERMANOVA) was performed to evaluate changes in the
138 limnological variables over the years in lakes and rivers (Anderson 2006). We consider the limnological
139 variables as predictor variables and used the Euclidean distance. A total of 999 permutations were performed
140 to assess significance. We used a pair-wise PERMANOVA to assess significant differences amongst years.
141 The (dis)similarity in ostracod species composition was visualized between the lakes and rivers over the
142 years by a Principal Coordinate Analysis (PCoA; Legendre & Legendre 1998), using a presence / absence
143 matrix and the Jaccard index. A Multivariate Permutational Variance Analysis (PERMANOVA) was
144 performed to evaluate changes in ostracod species composition over the years in lakes and rivers (Anderson
145 2006). A total of 999 permutations were performed to assess significance. We used a pair-wise
146 PERMANOVA to assess significant differences amongst years.
147 Multiple regression analyses was carried out to test the influence of the limnological variables (water
148 temperature, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, pH and water level) on the ostracod species
149 composition using both axes of the PcoA. The collinearity amongst the predictors was checked by the variance
150 inflation factor ($VIF < 5$).

151 We used the partitioning beta-diversity framework to investigate the variation in ostracod community
152 composition over time. This approach calculates the total variation in beta-diversity (B-total) and partitions it

153 into a component attributed to species replacement (B-repl) and into a component attributed to richness
154 differences (gain or loss of species, Rich-Diff). Firstly, we calculated three pairwise dissimilarity matrices
155 (B-tot, B-repl and Rich-Diff, using Jaccard measures), based on species presence / absence, using the
156 function *beta* in the BAT package (Cardoso *et al.* 2015). These matrices were calculated separately for each
157 year and for each type of environment (lakes and rivers). Secondly, we calculated the mean values of
158 dissimilarity (from a sample in relation to all the others) for each matrix. Finally, from these mean values, we
159 used the parametric analysis of variance (ANOVA) to evaluate possible significant differences in B-total,
160 B-repl and Rich Diff amongst the years. When the normality and homogeneity assumption required for
161 ANOVA was not fulfilled, a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was used. In case of significant differences,
162 post-hoc tests were performed.

163 Analyses were performed with the environment R 3.3.1 (R Development Core Team, 2019). PCA and PcoA
164 used the *vegan* (Oksanen *et al.* 2019), *permut* (Simpson 2019) and *lattice* (Sarkar 2008) packages and
165 PERMANOVA was performed according to the function “ADONIS” of the *vegan* package. B-tot, B-repl and
166 Rich-Diff were calculated using the function *beta* in the BAT package (Cardoso *et al.* 2015). A parametric
167 ANOVA and non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis were performed using the function *aov* and *kruskal.test*,
168 respectively, of the *vegan* package in R environment.

169

170 **RESULTS**

171 The measured abiotic variables of the lakes and rivers are listed in Table 1. The highest water temperatures
172 were measured in 2018; the lowest values in 2012. The lowest concentrations of dissolved oxygen were
173 recorded in 2011 (lakes: 0.1 mg.L⁻¹, rivers: 1.7 mg.L⁻¹); the highest values in 2018 (lakes: 7.7 mg.L⁻¹, rivers:
174 8.5 mg.L⁻¹). In the lakes, the electrical conductivity ranged from 22.9 μS.cm⁻¹ (2018) to 52.3 μS.cm⁻¹ (2004)
175 and in the rivers from 18.8 μS.cm⁻¹ (2012) to 58 μS.cm⁻¹ (2011). The pH varied from acid (in 2017) to
176 neutral (in 2004).

177 Between 2004 to 2018, daily water level oscillations occurred, with five flood peaks (> 450 cm), as well as
178 several short periods of drought and one period (2015 and 2016) of a more intense and prolonged drought
179 (Figure 2). During the study period, the highest average water level was observed in 2011 and the lowest in
180 2018 (Table 1, Figure 2).

181

182 >>> Table 1

183 >>> Figure 2

184

185 The first two axes of the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) explained 63.3% of the variance of the abiotic
186 data in the lakes and 65% in the rivers. Significant differences between the years were recorded in both the
187 lakes ($F= 9.90$; $p= 0.001$) and in the rivers ($F= 4.35$; $p= 0.006$).

188 In the lakes, the correlated variables in the first axis (PC1 ($P\leq 0.5$)) were DO ($R = -0.59$), pH ($R = -0.49$) and
189 WT ($R = 0.49$). In axis 2 (PC2) it was mainly EC ($R = 0.84$) (Figure 3A). The pairwise PERMANOVA
190 showed significant ($P\leq 0.5$) differences between all years in the lakes (Table 2). The lowest concentration of
191 oxygen was observed in 2011, while the highest mean value of pH and the lowest temperature were recorded
192 in 2012 (Table 1).

193 In the rivers, the variables that contributed to the formation of the first axis were DO ($R = -0.64$), pH ($R = -$
194 0.60) and of the second axis were WT ($R = 0.75$) and EC ($R = 0.62$) (Figure 3B). The pairwise
195 PERMANOVA showed significant ($P\leq 0.5$) differences between all years in the rivers, except between 2014
196 and 2018 (Table 2). The lowest water temperature and conductivity values were observed in 2012 (Table 1).

197

198 >>> Table 2

199 >>> Figure 3

200

201 We recorded 38 species of ostracods, belonging to the families Cyprididae, Candonidae, Limnocytheridae
202 and Darwinulidae (Table S1).

203 The result of the Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA), used to evaluate the (dis) similarity between the
204 years, showed significant differences in species composition in both types of environment: in lakes ($F = 2.0$,
205 $P = 0.004$) and rivers ($F = 1.82$, $P = 0.001$) (Figure 4). The pairwise PERMANOVA showed distinct
206 ostracod species compositions in the lakes between 2004 and 2011 ($P = 0.007$), between 2004 and 2018 ($P =$
207 0.035), between 2011 and 2012 ($P = 0.000$), and between 2011 and 2018 ($P = 0.006$). On the other hand, the
208 species composition of 2004 was significantly different from all other years, except from 2017 in the rivers
209 (Table 3).

210

211 >>> Figure 4

212 >>> Table 3

213

214 The multiple regression analyses using all variables (global model) was not significant between abiotic
215 variables and species composition in the lakes on axis 1 (Model, $R^2 = 0.179$, $P = 0.145$), however it was
216 significant on axis 2 (Model, $R^2 = 0.533$, $P < 0.000$). Considering each variable separately in lakes, the
217 multiple regressions were significant between species composition and water temperature, electrical
218 conductivity on axis 1, and between composition and dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature on axis 2
219 (Table 4). In the rivers, the multiple regression did not show relationships between species composition and
220 any of the abiotic variables (global model) on both axes, axis 1 (Model, $R^2 = 0.157$, $P = 0.371$) and axis 2
221 (Model, $R^2 = 0.206$, $P = 0.202$). On the other hand, analysing each abiotic variable separately, the species
222 composition in rivers were significantly correlated to water level on axis 1 and to dissolved oxygen on axis 2
223 (Table 4).

224

225 >>> Table 4

226

227 The results showed, in general, an increase in beta-total over time, with higher mean values in 2017, for
228 lakes (0.80) and rivers (0.79) (Figure 5A, C). There was a significant difference in beta-total over time, for
229 both types of environment (lakes: $H = 14.8129$; $P = 0.0051$ and rivers: $H = 23.0289$; $P = 0.0001$).
230 Differences were found between 2004 and 2017, and 2012 and 2017 in the lakes, while in the rivers the beta-
231 total differed between 2004 and all other years, excepted for 2011.
232 According to the components of beta-diversity, mean values of B-repl were usually higher than Rich-Diff
233 (up to 0.640 in 2017, for the rivers), excepted in 2011 (lakes) and 2018 (rivers) (Figure 5B, D). There were
234 significant differences in both of these components over time for lakes (B-repl: $F = 3.1937$; $P = 0.0229$;
235 Rich-Diff: $H = 19.1149$; $P = 0.0007$) and rivers (B-repl: $F = 10.2519$; $P = 0.00002$; Rich-Diff: $H = 18.5288$;
236 $P = 0.0010$). B-repl differences were found between 2004 and 2011 for lakes, and between 2017 and all other
237 years for rivers. Rich-Diff differences were found between 2004 and all other years, excepted for 2012, for
238 lakes; and between 2004 and 2018, and between 2017 and 2018 for rivers.

239

240 >>> Figure 5

241

242 **DISCUSSION**

243 Differences in ostracod composition and beta diversity over time might be associated with temporal
244 variations at local scales, such as changes in environmental conditions, and regional scales, related to
245 dispersal limitation throughout the Upper Paraná River floodplain. These factors have been considered
246 important in structuring aquatic communities (Langenheder *et al.* 2011, Benone *et al.* 2018). In the Paraná
247 river floodplain, water level variation (see Figure 2) can change the environmental heterogeneity within and
248 amongst the environments over time (Conceição *et al.* 2018, Campos *et al.* 2019), and consequently the
249 availability of habitats, generating niches where some species are favoured over others (Heino 2000). For
250 example, while habitats are more isolated during low water periods, during flood periods there is a higher
251 connectivity amongst them, leading to a homogenization in biological communities (Thomaz *et al.* 2007).
252 Despite the importance of water level fluctuations and water flow, abiotic variables also influence biological
253 (e.g. growth, reproduction) and ecological (e.g. composition, diversity, distribution) aspects of aquatic
254 organisms, such as ostracods (Kim *et al.* 2015, Akita *et al.* 2016). Some variables such as dissolved oxygen,
255 electrical conductivity, pH, water temperature and water level are known to be important for the composition
256 of ostracod communities and our results confirm that. For instance, Kim *et al.* (2015), in experimental tests
257 with *Heterocypris incongruens*, showed that higher pH levels lead to higher growth rates in populations.
258 Similarly, Higuti *et al.* (2010) reported a positive relationship between pH and ostracods, especially owing to
259 the importance of calcium for the formation of the shells. Also, water temperature affects the life story and
260 body size of ostracods species (Aguilar-Alberola & Mesquita Joanes 2014) and electrical conductivity is
261 commonly pointed as a factor that influences the distribution of ostracods, even in a great range of habitats
262 (Akita *et al.* 2016, Kùlköylüođlu *et al.* 2016, Castillo-Escrivà *et al.* 2017). Some studies have also found a
263 correlation between ostracod community composition and dissolved oxygen (e.g. Conceição *et al.* 2017,
264 Higuti *et al.* 2017). Even with the limited abiotic variables analysed in the present study, most of them had a
265 significant effect on the species composition in ostracod communities. However, other (as yet unmeasured)
266 variables could also affect these communities, such as nutrients, biotic interactions and substrate types
267 (Schön *et al.* 2017).

268 The sequence of floods and drought might also explain the difference in the contribution of turnover and
269 richness difference components over time. The fact that the B-repl component was the most important,
270 compared to Rich-Diff, confirms that the environmental filtering (probably related to increases in the spatial
271 variability in relation to abiotic factors during drought periods), replaced species from one environment to
272 another in the Upper Paraná River floodplain. According to Zellweger *et al.* (2017), environmental filtering
273 occurs owing to the species' physiological tolerances to abiotic environmental conditions. Hill *et al.* (2017)
274 also obtained similar results in ponds of Leicestershire (UK), and the turnover was the main component
275 influencing the beta diversity of macroinvertebrates, which was attributed mainly to environmental filtering.
276 A high species replacement was also observed for zooplankton communities owing limiting similarity and
277 habitat filtering in the lakes of the Upper Paraná River floodplain (Braghin *et al.* 2018).

278 The increase of total ostracod beta-diversity over time might be related to dam-controlled floods, together
279 with climatic natural events, such as La Niña phenomena (a phase of the ENSO-El Niño-Southern
280 Oscillation - Berri *et al.* 2002, Grimm & Tedeschi 2009), which intensify, for example, extreme drought
281 periods. Such intense and prolonged periods of low water levels have been common in the last decades and,
282 in addition to the increase of environmental heterogeneity, might cause habitat isolation, and consequently
283 species dispersal limitation. For instance, Campos *et al.* (2019), analysing ostracod metacommunities over
284 time, found high values of beta-diversity in extreme drought periods, mainly related to spatial factors or
285 dispersal limitation through the Paraná River region. Another feature that can affect the dynamics of ostracod
286 communities is the production of resting eggs by these organisms, which can resist long periods of drought
287 and can then be transported to and hatched from the sediments by several floods (Meisch 2000, Conceição *et*
288 *al.* 2018, Chaparro *et al.* 2018).

289 In conclusion, the beta diversity and the species composition of ostracods change over the years in lentic and
290 lotic floodplain environments owing, at least partly, to the variation in abiotic variables. The present study
291 showed the importance of long-term ecological monitoring (PELD), mainly in large river ecosystems, which
292 are regulated by dams and reservoirs (e.g. the Upper Paraná River). The potential effects of dams on
293 biodiversity are here exemplified by changes in ostracod beta-diversity over time. In addition, the temporal
294 changes observed in ostracod communities may reflect the dynamics of other communities, since these
295 organisms form an integral part of the pleuston of root systems of floating plants, which interacts with both
296 aquatic and terrestrial communities. Therefore, such long-term studies are valuable for future research, for

297 example, but not exclusively, regarding biological interactions. We also stress that throughout this long-term
298 study, new species and genera have been discovered, which can contribute to future biodiversity
299 conservation strategies. The present results thus strongly emphasize the relevance of long-term monitoring in
300 research on alpha and beta diversity.

301

302

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317

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460

461 **Captions of tables and figures**

462 Table 1. Mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum (between parentheses) values of the abiotic
463 variables over time in lakes and rivers of the Upper Paraná River floodplain. Water temperature (WT),
464 dissolved oxygen (DO), electrical conductivity (EC) and water level (WL). Water level measurements are
465 from six days before sampling (see Thomaz *et al.*, 2004).

466

467 Table 2. Pairwise PERMANOVA of the limnological variables over time in the two lakes and two rivers of
468 the Upper Paraná River floodplain.

469

470 Table 3. Pairwise PERMANOVA of the ostracod species composition over time in two lakes and two rivers
471 of the Upper Paraná River floodplain.

472

473 Table 4. Results of multiple regressions between species composition and abiotic variables in two lakes and
474 two rivers of the Upper Paraná River floodplain. Water temperature (WT), dissolved oxygen (DO), electrical
475 conductivity (EC), water level – six days before sampling (WL).

476

477

478 Figure 1. Location of two lakes and two rivers of the Upper Paraná River floodplain.

479

480 Figure 2. Daily water levels of the Upper Parana´ River (in the field station of Porto Rico, Paraná) from 2004
481 to 2018. Arrows indicate the sampling periods.

482

483 Figure 3. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) ordination diagram derived from abiotic data of the two
484 lakes (A) and two rivers (B) of the Upper Paraná River floodplain. Water temperature (WT), dissolved
485 oxygen (DO), electrical conductivity (EC), and Water level (WL).

486

487 Figure 4. Principal Coordinate Analysis (PCoA) derived from ostracod communities in two lakes (A) and
488 two rivers (B) of the Upper Paraná River floodplain.

489

490 Figure 5. Beta total, beta replacement (B-repl) and richness difference (Rich-Diff) of the ostracods over time,
491 in the two lakes (A, B) and two rivers (C, D) of the Upper Paraná River floodplain.

492

493 **Electronic supplementary material**

494 Table S1. Ostracod species from the two lakes and two rivers of the Upper Paraná River floodplain studied in
495 the present paper.

496

497

498 Table 1

499

| Year | Environmental type | WT (°C) | DO (mg.L ⁻¹) | EC (µS.cm ⁻¹) | pH | WL (cm) |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2004 | Lakes | 28.3±1.9 (26.0-31.1) | 3.4±1.4 (2.3-6.5) | 45.2±5.5 (40.5-52.3) | 5.7±0.7 (5.2-7.0) | 298.4±57.0 (222-390) |
| | Rivers | 28.0±1.9 (25.8-30.5) | 4.8±1.3 (3.1-6.5) | 37.5±6.2 (30.9-46.6) | 6.2±0.5 (5.7-7.0) | 298.4±57.0 (222-390) |
| 2011 | Lakes | 29.6±0.4 (29.3-30.2) | 0.2±0.1 (0.1-0.2) | 38.6±3.1 (36.6-42.8) | 5.8±0.1 (5.8-5.9) | 363.0±13.8 (338-387) |
| | Rivers | 36.0±14.9 (27.3-29.5) | 2.3±1.1 (1.7-4.0) | 30.2±0.5 (30.6-58.0) | 5.6±0.6 (5.2-6.5) | 363.0±13.8 (338-387) |
| 2012 | Lakes | 17.2±0.3 (16.9-17.7) | 2.6±1.6 (0.4-3.6) | 31.1±11.6 (23.4-46.6) | 5.9±0.2 (5.6-6.0) | 300.6±35.0 (229-339) |
| | Rivers | 18.3±0.9 (17.2-18.9) | 5.1±2.0 (3.8-7.7) | 25.3±10.0 (18.8-38.3) | 6.4±0.1 (6.2-6.6) | 300.6±35.0 (229-339) |
| 2017 | Lakes | 26.9±3.4 (21.3-30.5) | 3.5±1.9 (0.4-5.4) | 40.5±8.9 (28.0-51.0) | 5.4±0.8 (4.2-6.5) | 260.2±44.4 (192-334) |
| | Rivers | 27.7±3.3 (24.0-32.0) | 5.7±1.0 (4.7-7.1) | 39.2±11.2 (24.9-53.0) | 5.3±1.1 (4.2-6.3) | 260±44.4 (192-334) |
| 2018 | Lakes | 26.3±4.9 (21.2-34.1) | 2.4±2.6 (0.2-7.7) | 38.7±10.8 (22.9-49.9) | 5.4±0.7 (4.5-6.6) | 225.9±81.0 (110-338) |
| | Rivers | 26.4±4.9 (22.0-31.3) | 4.8±2.7 (2.7-8.5) | 34.7±13.8 (20.3-49.9) | 5.6±0.4 (5.0-6.0) | 225.9±81.0 (110-338) |

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502

503 Table 2

504

| Environment Years | | RIVERS | | | | |
|----------------------|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2004 | 2011 | 2012 | 2017 | 2018 |
| LAKES | 2004 | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.014 | 0.184 |
| | 2011 | 0.010 | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.001 |
| | 2012 | 0.000 | 0.000 | | 0.001 | 0.014 |
| | 2017 | 0.020 | 0.047 | 0.000 | | 0.032 |
| | 2018 | 0.020 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.007 | |

505

506

507 Table 3

508

| Environment Years | | RIVERS | | | | |
|----------------------|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| | | 2004 | 2011 | 2012 | 2017 | 2018 |
| LAKES | 2004 | | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.183 | 0.028 |
| | 2011 | 0.007 | | 0.284 | 0.080 | 0.063 |
| | 2012 | 0.570 | 0.000 | | 0.358 | 0.142 |
| | 2017 | 0.434 | 0.483 | 0.400 | | 0.600 |
| | 2018 | 0.035 | 0.006 | 0.023 | 0.060 | |

509

510

511

512 Table 4

513

| Variables | | Lakes | | | | Rivers | | | |
|-----------|----|----------|----------------|--------|--------------|----------|----------------|-------|--------------|
| | | Estimate | Standard error | T | <i>P</i> | Estimate | Standard error | T | <i>P</i> |
| PCoA1 | WT | 7.79 | 2.86 | 2.72 | 0.009 | -3.98 | 3.49 | -1.14 | 0.262 |
| | DO | -3.83 | 7.49 | -0.51 | 0.611 | 1.26 | 9.35 | 0.13 | 0.893 |
| | EC | -3.80 | 1.70 | -2.23 | 0.003 | 2.36 | 1.83 | 1.28 | 0.207 |
| | pH | 14.92 | 17.97 | 0.83 | 0.411 | -23.99 | 16.45 | -1.45 | 0.155 |
| | WL | -0.44 | 0.22 | -1.99 | 0.053 | 0.58 | 0.28 | 2.07 | 0.047 |
| PCoA2 | WT | -1.37 | 1.75 | -0.078 | 0.435 | -0.25 | 2.53 | -0.10 | 0.919 |
| | DO | 11.61 | 4.58 | 2.53 | 0.015 | -16.90 | 6.78 | -2.49 | 0.018 |
| | EC | -2.30 | 1.04 | -2.22 | 0.032 | 0.93 | 1.33 | 0.70 | 0.487 |
| | pH | 26.43 | 10.99 | -2.40 | 0.020 | 11.36 | 11.93 | 0.95 | 0.348 |
| | WL | -0.19 | 0.13 | -1.43 | 0.159 | -0.06 | 0.20 | -0.32 | 0.745 |

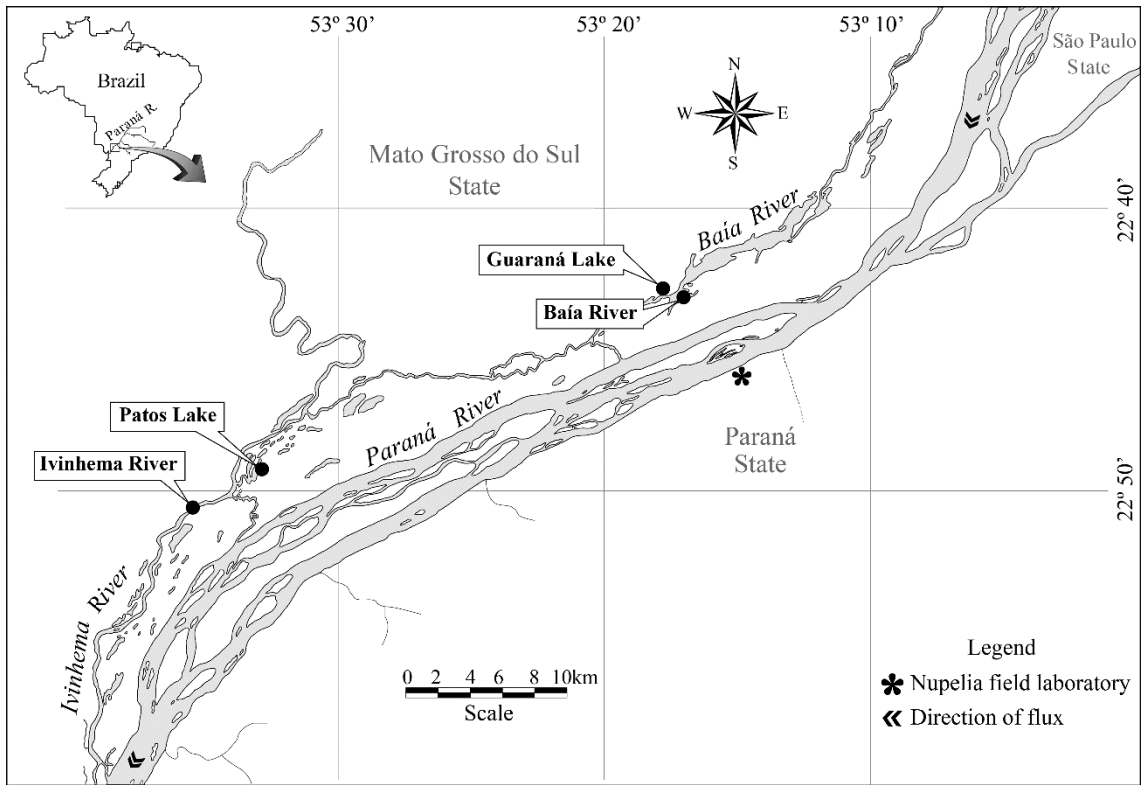
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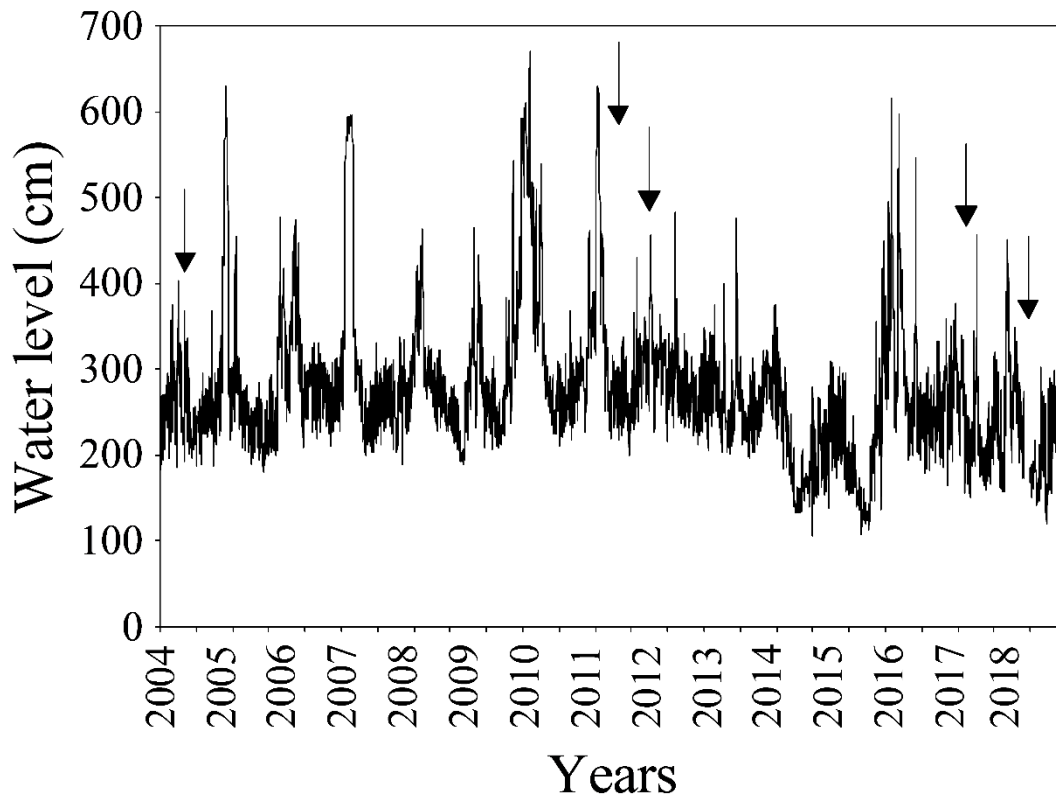


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521 Figure 1

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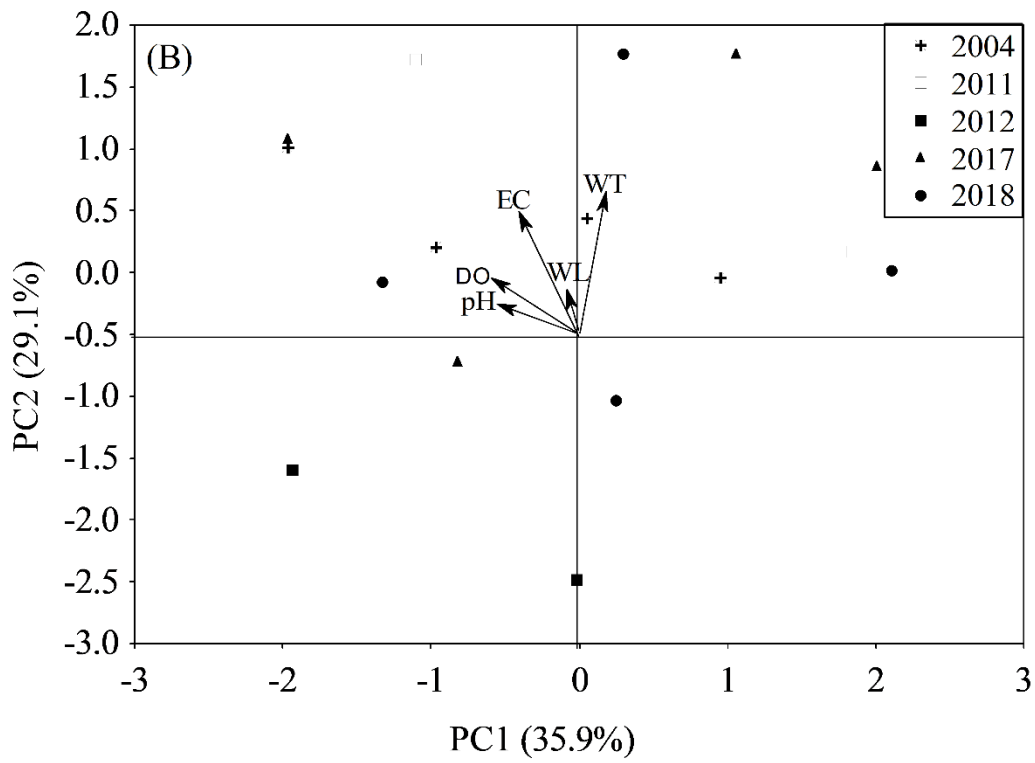
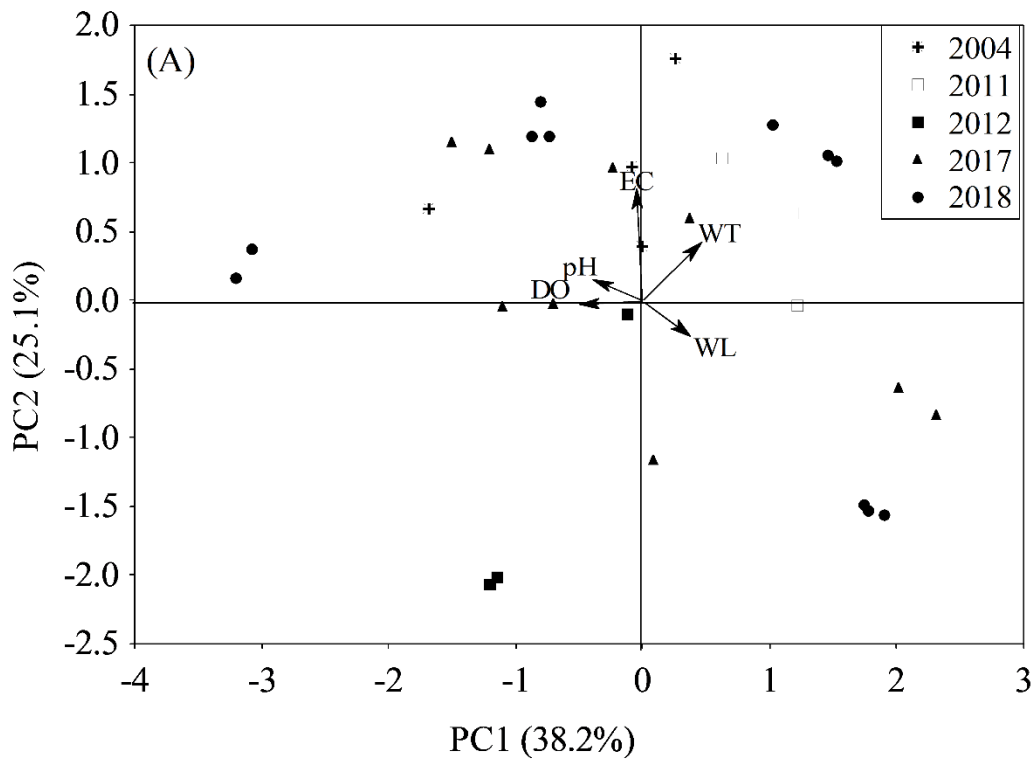


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526 Figure 2

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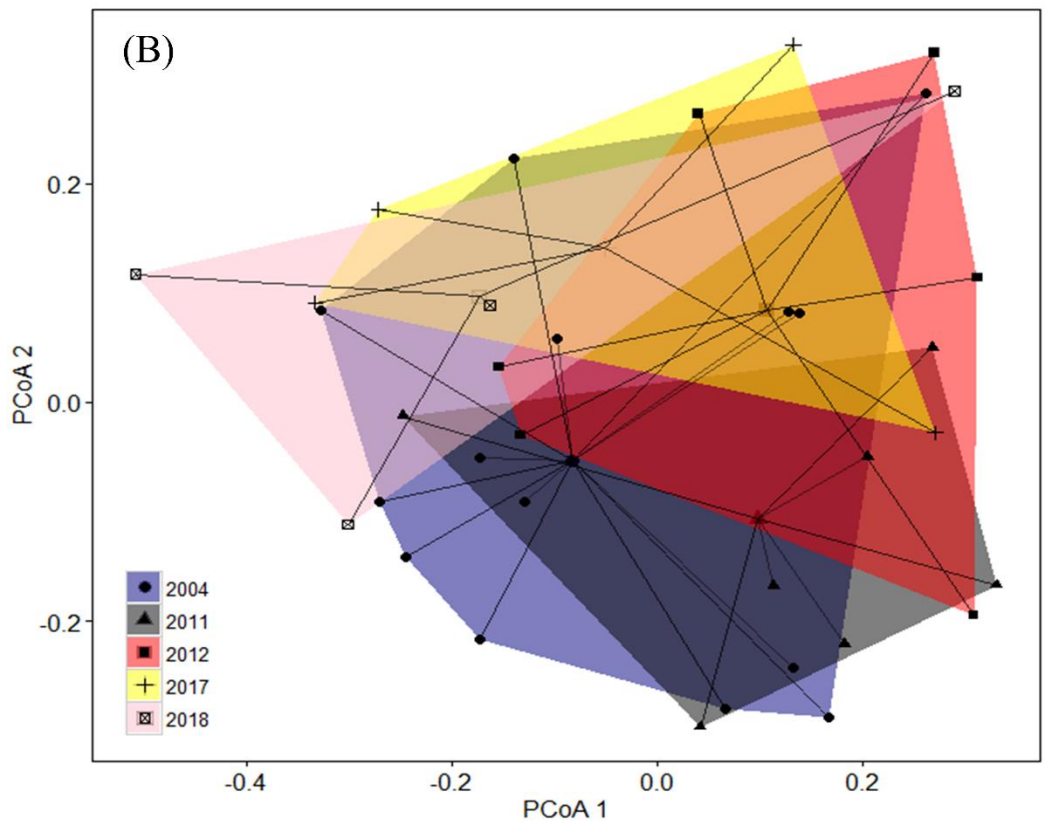
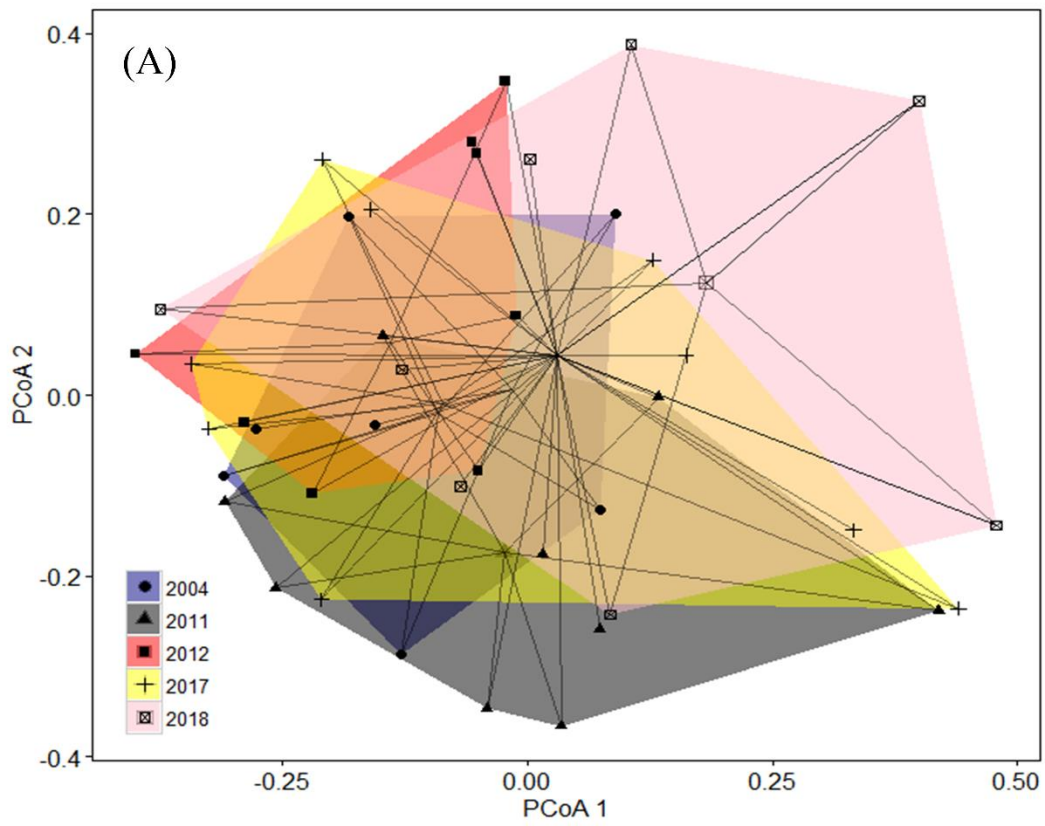


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531 Figure 3

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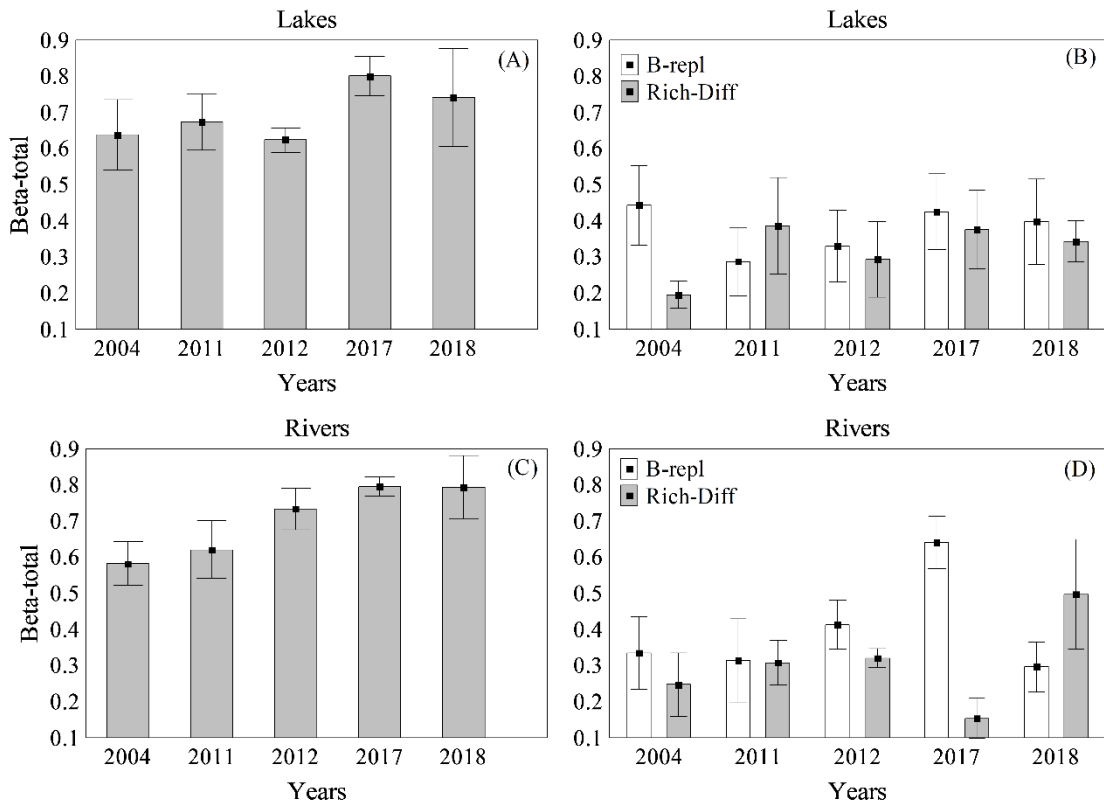


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535 Figure 4

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540 Figure 5

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**Family Darwinulidae Brady & Robertson,
1885**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Alicenula serricaudata</i> (Klie, 1935) | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Penthesilenula brasiliensis</i> (Pinto & Kotzian, 1961) | | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Vestalenula pagliolii</i> (Pinto & Kotzian, 1961) | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |

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548