

The edaphic macrofauna in three components of the coffee plant arrangement associated with different management typologies, Antioquia, Colombia

La macrofauna edáfica en tres componentes del arreglo vegetal cafetero asociada con diferentes tipologías de manejo, Antioquia, Colombia

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Originales: *Recepción*: 12/10/2016 - *Aceptación*: 28/06/2017

ABSTRACT

The balance and sustainability of coffee agroecosystems in southwestern Antioquia depend on the interactions and synergisms that take place above and below the ground. Within these, the functional groups of edaphic macrofauna constitute bio-indicators of soil quality. The present research on coffee systems evaluates the edaphic macrofauna in three components of the plant arrangement, under different management typologies. The study was carried out in the San Gregorio, La Soledad, La Clara and Egypt townships of Santa Rita in the municipality of Andes, Antioquia. The assessment of the edaphic macrofauna was carried out by random stratified sampling under coffee canopy, under banana canopy and in the furrow, in three zones of the slope of each productive system. A general linear model, multivariate techniques of Manovas and Biplot were used as statistical methods. The greatest interaction of the macrofauna groups was presented in the order of the systems: Transition II (Use of organic inputs)>Transition I (Rationalization of synthetic inputs)>Conventional (Use of chemical inputs), and by plant arrangement components in the order Banana>Coffee>Furrow.

Keywords

Agroecology • agroecosystems • biota • conventional • transition

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RESUMEN

El equilibrio y la sostenibilidad de los agroecosistemas cafeteros del suroeste antioqueño, dependen de las interacciones y sinergismos que se dan lugar por encima y debajo del suelo. Dentro de estas, los grupos funcionales de la macrofauna edáfica constituyen bioindicadores de la calidad del suelo. La presente investigación de los sistemas cafeteros evalúa la macrofauna edáfica en tres componentes del arreglo vegetal, bajo diferentes tipologías de manejo. El estudio se realizó en las veredas San Gregorio, La Soledad, La Clara y Egipto del corregimiento de Santa Rita en el municipio de Andes, Antioquia. Se realizó la evaluación de la macrofauna edáfica mediante un muestreo aleatorio estratificado debajo del dosel del café, debajo del dosel del plátano y en el surco, en tres zonas de la pendiente de cada sistema productivo. Se emplearon como métodos estadísticos un modelo lineal general, técnicas multivariadas de Manovas y Biplot. La mayor interacción de los grupos de la macrofauna se presentó en el orden de los sistemas: Transición II (Utilización de insumos orgánicos)>Transición I (Racionalización de insumos sintéticos)>Convencionales (Utilización de insumos químicos), y por componentes del arreglo vegetal en el orden Plátano>Café>Surco.

Palabras claves

Agroecología • agroecosistemas • biota • convencional • transición

INTRODUCTION

Today, the advance of modern agriculture has transformed the natural ecosystems of plants into simplified crop systems, characterized by a high degree of imbalance in the components of the agroecosystems (21).

In Colombia's coffee growing systems, the intensification of coffee production from a social, environmental, economic and technological point of view have a negative impact on the landscape, which in turn leads to the loss of biodiversity of microorganisms, plants and animals native to different regions of the country (20, 29).

In the municipality of Andes, South-western Antioquia, coffee growers and organizations in the sector use conventional systems as their main productive model. These systems use monocultures, heavy machinery, fertilizers and chemical pesticides. This model threatens the biodiversity of the territory and causes serious

impacts such as; contamination of water sources (19), progressive degradation of the physical and chemical properties of the soil (27), exploitation of energy sources (24), breaking of complex biological trophic networks of the soil (7, 20, 28), resistance to pests, invasive diseases and weeds (5, 16, 25), intensification in the emission of greenhouse gases and greater vulnerability to climate change (13, 21, 29).

According to Altieri and Niholls (2008); Armbretch (2016) and Vázquez and Matienzo (2010) in order to curb the ecological deterioration that has been occurring in coffee systems, the solution is to increase interactions and positive ecological synergisms between the biotic functional groups above and below the ground.

The interactions of functional groups, ensure the integrity of the agroecosystems through various synergies and ecosystem services that occur between plant diversity

and the presence of multifunctional biological organisms. Services include: nutrient recycling, increased organic matter, stability of the physical and chemical properties of soil, biological control of pests and diseases. All these services together guarantee productive, sustainable, biodiverse and resilient systems (1, 14, 21).

In direct relation with the management of soil fertility, the trophic groups of the edaphic macrofauna are manifested. These are considered soil engineers (6, 16, 18, 21) as they modify agroecosystems through their action in the decomposition of organic matter and its influence on the cycle of carbon and other nutrients. They also improve porosity, permeability, infiltration and structural stability of soil aggregates (7, 8, 26).

Therefore, this research will make it possible to evaluate the functional groups of edaphic macrofauna in three components of the plant arrangement under different management systems for coffee production.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area was located in the Santa Rita district of Andes municipality, Antioquia. It is located southwest of the municipality, about 12.1km. It is located at 5°39'13" N and 75°3'37" W. It presents a humid tropical temperate climate and corresponds to the life zones of premontane humid forest. In general, the climatic conditions show an average temperature between 18°C and 24°C and an average annual rainfall between 1000 and 2000 mm (19).

The investigation was carried out in 13 coffee farms of the village, located on the path lane: San Gregorio, La Soledad, La Clara and Egypt, on an altitudinal strip

between 1700 and 2000 meters above sea level. The soils of the study systems have been developed from metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks with volcanic ash deposits (30). They have a texture of sandy and clayey loamy soils, in some cases with high mineral content and a strongly acidic pH. They are very deep, with an organic surface horizon-mineral of dark color and beneath it, another yellow or reddish brown color, good drainage, low moisture retention and a jagged appearance is manifested. Organic matter and nutrient content vary depending on the type of management. The types of soil present in the village are Typic Dystrudepts, Typic Fulvudands and Humic Dystrudepts. Also the inclusions Lithic Dystrudepts, Oxidic Dystrudepts and Typic Eutrudepts are present (15).

The study systems belong to coffee producers with more than 20 years of experience under sun exposure or diversified shade, with three and four hectare farms and different management types (27) (table 1, page 81).

The experimental design of the research started with stratified random sampling of different functional groups of the edaphic macrofauna in three components of the plant arrangement, under three management typologies.

The sampling sites analyzed during the investigation were: I (Under coffee canopy), the coffee crops presents the same height and vegetative state and with the same topographical inclination; II (Under banana canopy), the banana crops are in the fruiting stage and are associated with coffee at a distance of one meter with 50 centimeters; III (Furrow between coffee and banana), the furrow has a width of 70 centimeters, the tillage is zero and no weeds were observed. The sampling was collected in the middle of the furrow.

Table 1. Characterization of management typologies coffee-growing systems.**Tabla 1.** Caracterización de las tipologías de manejo de los sistemas cafeteros.

Characteristics	Management typologies		
	Conventional	Transition I	Transition II
Coffee farms	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	7 and 8
Production systems	Farms of intensive production based on mono-culture and in excessive use high toxicity chemical products.	Farms in an initial phase of the conversion process toward agro-ecological systems. These systems assure the progressive elimination of chemical products through rationalization and with organic fertilizers.	Farms in a second phase of the conversion process toward agro-ecological systems. They only use organic products prepared with internal products of the system such as: vermin-culture, rustic compost, bocashi, mineral soups, among others, bio-fermented products based on manure and minerals.
Vegetal strata	The low stratum presents coffee plantation and invading weeds such as (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> L.), (<i>Triumfetta semitriloba</i> L.), (<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.), (<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.), (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> L.), (<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> L.). In medium stratum, (<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz.) and (<i>Musa</i> sp. L.) were crops observed in a dispersed way and without organization in the field as a basic food of the family.	The low stratum presents coffee plantation, invading weeds such as (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> L.) and (<i>Eleusine indica</i> L.). In medium stratum (<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz.), (<i>Zea mays</i> L.), and (<i>Musa</i> sp. L.) were crops found in association with the main crop. High stratum there were found fruit trees such as: (<i>Persea americana</i> Mill.) and (<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.).	The low stratum presents coffee plantation, not invading weeds, medicinal plants such as (<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> Stapf.), (<i>Aloe vera</i> L.), (<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L.), (<i>Salvia officinalis</i> L.), (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.), and (<i>Capsicum annum</i> L.). In medium stratum, there were crops observed such as (<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz.), (<i>Zea mays</i> L.), (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.), and (<i>Musa</i> sp. L.). In high stratum, the system showed fruit and wood trees, such as (<i>Persea Americana</i> Mill.), (<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.), (<i>Cordia alliodora</i> Oken.), (<i>Cedrela odorata</i> L.), and (<i>Inga edulis</i> Mart.).

The study of the edaphic macrofauna was carried out by coffee systems, through nine soil monoliths 25 x 25 x 30 cm deep, 20 meters apart, and distributed in three monoliths by components of the plant arrangement. In each system, the macroinvertebrates present were collected following the Methodology of the International Program "Biology and Fertility of Tropical Soil" or TSBF.

Collected samples were kept in jars with 70% ethanol and 30% formaldehyde which were used to preserve the worms. Subsequently, the counting and separation of samples was carried out using a stereoscopic microscope, according to specifications of different extraction methods and taxonomic and functional identification of the macroinvertebrates (6, 7, 16).

For the interactions assessment, the general linear model (GLM) was used, where the control factors were the systems and the plant arrangements, the response variables were the detritivores, omnivores, herbivores and predators of the edaphic macrofauna. The variables were transformed based on the Box-Cox family, with the aim of establishing the optimal lambda, which would allow validating the statistical assumptions associated with the classification model. The Manova multivariate technique was also implemented, with canonical contrast of orthogonal type, in order to simultaneously evaluate all the variables under study. In addition, the Biplot technique and the descriptive process were applied in order to detect the joint relationships between all the variables studied simultaneously. The statistical packages used were SAS University Edition version 3.0.1, R and SPAD version 3.5.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Taxonomic and functional composition of the edaphic macrofauna.

The taxonomic composition of macrofauna present in the three sampling sites, showed that the macroinvertebrates are represented by three Phyla (Annelida, Mollusca and Arthropoda), seven classes (Clitellata, Insecta, Diplopoda, Chilopoda, Gastropoda, Malacostraca, Arachnida), six orders (Haplotaxida, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Isopoda, Dermaptera and Araneae) and seven families of different orders. The functional composition of the edaphic macrofauna by components of the plant arrangement produced four trophic groups: Detritivores, Predators, Omnivores and Herbivores (table 2).

Table 2. Taxonomic and functional composition of the edaphic macrofauna.

Tabla 2. Composición taxonómica y funcional de la macrofauna edáfica.

Phyla	Common Name	Classes	Orders	Families	Functional Group
Annelida	Earthworms	Clitellata	Haplotaxida	Megascolecidae Glossoscolecidae	Detritivores
Mollusca	Slugs and Snails	Gastropoda	-	-	Detritivores
Arthropoda	Millipede	Diplopoda	-	-	Detritivores
	Pillbugs	Malacostraca	Isopoda	-	Detritivores
	Beetles	Insecta	Coleoptera	Carabidae Tenebrionidae Scarabaeidae Elateridae	Detritivores, Herbivores and Predators
	Earwigs	Insecta	Dermaptera	-	Detritivores
	Ants	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Formicidae Subfamilia: Myrmicinae	Omnivores
	Centipede	Chilopoda	-	-	Predators
	Spiders	Arachnida	Araneae	-	Predators

Statistical analysis of functional groups of edaphic macrofauna by sampling sites and management typologies

Statistical difference was detected for the furrow zone between Transition II system, compared to the Conventional and Transition I systems, for the amount of detritivores and omnivores present ($p < 0.05$). For the other combinations of management systems and sampling sites, no significant differences were detected ($p > 0.05$) (table 3, page 84).

The multivariate analysis of the Manova variance, which takes into account all the variables related to macrofauna in its comparison, made it possible to detect a statistical difference ($p < 0.05$) between Transition II and Conventional systems. For coffee and banana crops, no difference was found between systems in the amount of detritivores, omnivores, herbivores and predators ($p > 0.05$) (table 3, page 84).

The largest number of detritivores and omnivores in the furrow of the transition II system with respect to the other systems are due to the fact that these sites have an organic management of the plantations and present a high biodiversity of microorganisms, plants and animals that cover the entire surface of the soil. Functional edaphic groups under this typology find characteristics similar to a natural ecosystem, endowed with quantity, variety and quality of plant and animal food, as well as microhabitats and resources to establish nesting sites (5, 11, 12).

Overall results in conventional systems indicate high levels of disturbance. The simplicity of these systems affects the decomposition of organic matter and nutrient recycling, as well as increasing negative impacts such as soil erosion, gradual loss of organic matter and plant cover, generate high temperatures that alter the local microclimate.

Consequently, these characteristics diminish the sustainability of coffee and lower soil quality (9).

Omnivorous populations were represented by ants, a very diverse group of food habits that find favorable conditions for reproduction and development in open coffee systems, disturbed, with few plant species, as occurs in conventional systems, where only predominantly banana cultivation. These conditions stimulate the presence of larger generalist ant species and soldiers made up of large heads and thickened bodies (3).

Omnivores participate in many key ecosystem processes, such as soil improvement, nutrient circulation and regulation of populations of herbivorous insects and predators, which explains the low populations of these groups in all systems (25).

In Transition I and II systems, these insects had greater resources available for different microhabitats and nutrients, which explains why high omnivorous populations are represented equally in these systems (4), as well as detritivores in turn, find a greater source of food to carry out physiological processes in order to improve soil properties and guarantee the fertility of the soil (5, 17, 28).

Significant differences observed in the furrow zone between systems are due to the fact that the coffee systems in Transition II, present a greater vegetable cover made up of leguminous, medicinal and weed species, which maintains a favorable microclimate in the soil, with abundant food and shelter, for the establishment of populations of detritivores and omnivores, which decreases in the Transition I and Conventional systems (11).

Table 3. Analysis Anovas and Manovas of the edaphic macrofauna by sampling sites and management typologies.

Tabla 3. Análisis Anovas y Manovas de la macrofauna edáfica por sitios de muestreo y tipologías de manejo.

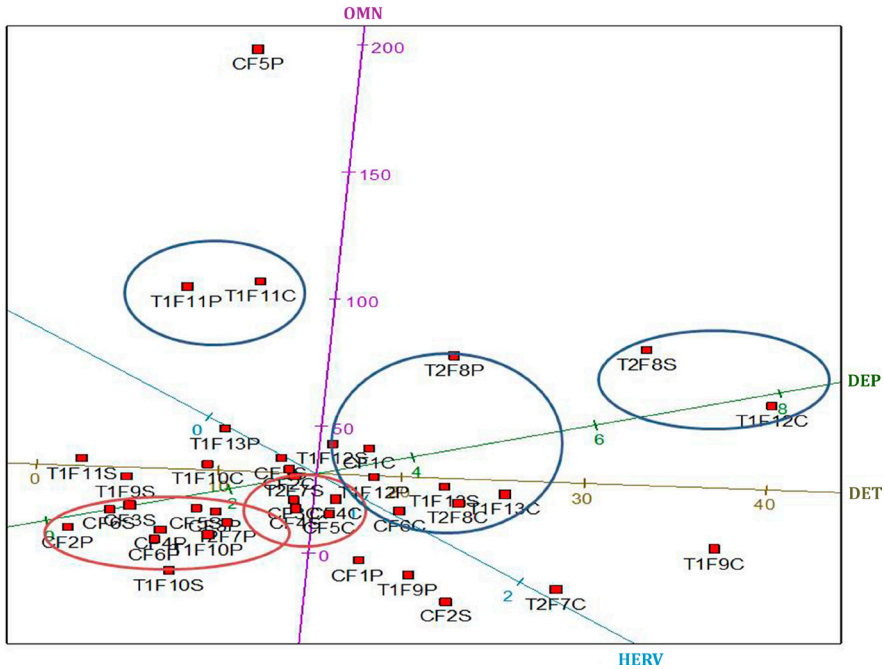
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	DETRITIVOS (#Ind)		
	MEDIA±STD	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM
Under coffee canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	19.0±15.2 a	39	1
TRANSITION I	24.0±13.8 a	38	9
TRANSITION II	29.0±2.1 a	30	27
Furrow			
CONVENTIONAL	6.0±2.6 b	9	2
TRANSITION I	10.0±9.3 b	26	3
TRANSITION II	30.0±9.0 a	36	23
Under banana canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	6.0±4.5 a	15	2
TRANSITION I	17.6±6.9 a	26	10
TRANSITION II	20.0±19.0 a	33	6
HERBIVORES (#Ind)			
Under coffee canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	1.0±0.8 a	2	0
TRANSITION I	1.0±1.8 a	4	0
TRANSITION II	2.0±2.8 a	4	0
Furrow			
CONVENTIONAL	1.0±1.6 a	4	0
TRANSITION I	1.0±0.8 a	2	0
TRANSITION II	1.0±0.7 a	2	0
Under banana canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	1.0±1.2 a	3	0
TRANSITION I	1.0±0.9 a	2	0
TRANSITION II	1.0±0.7 a	1	0
OMNIVORES (#Ind)			
Under coffee canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	19.0±17.5 a	47	1
TRANSITION I	47.0±40.4 a	109	2
TRANSITION II	12.0±9.9 a	19	5
Furrow			
CONVENTIONAL	12.0±8.5 b	26	0
TRANSITION I	30.0±21.3 b	59	0
TRANSITION II	53.0±38.1 a	80	26
Under banana canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	41.0±84.4 a	213	0
TRANSITION I	37.0±45.9 a	113	2
TRANSITION II	45.0±42.2 a	75	15
PREDATORS (#Ind)			
Under coffee canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	3.0±2.1 a	6	0
TRANSITION I	5.0±2.9 a	9	2
TRANSITION II	4.0±1.4 a	5	3
Furrow			
CONVENTIONAL	2.8±1.7 a	5	1
TRANSITION I	2.0±1.8 a	4	0
TRANSITION II	5.0±3.5 a	7	2
Under banana canopy			
CONVENTIONAL	2.0±1.5 a	3	0
TRANSITION I	2.0±1.2 a	4	1
TRANSITION II	3.0±1.4 a	4	2
COMPARISSON BETWEEN SAMPLING SITES			
	Coffee	Furrow	Banana
Wilks' Lambda	0.6203	0.0338	0.7419
Canonical	No difference	Transition II =a conventional=b	No difference

Equal letters indicate that there is no statistically significant difference ($p > 0.05$) and different letters indicate that there is statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$).

Letras iguales indican que no hay diferencia estadística significativa ($p > 0,05$) y letras diferentes indican que hay diferencia estadística significativa ($p < 0,05$).

The Biplot analysis simultaneously depicted the components of plant arrangement, systems and the source of the systems (finches) in association with macrofauna groups (detritivores, omnivores, herbivores, predators) (figure 1). The results show a separatist tendency of the Transition I and II systems, with respect to the Conventional ones. As well as between the results of the furrow and the banana and coffee.

Once again, the trend that separates the composition of functional groups in Transition and Conventional systems highlights the effect of managing coffee agroecosystems, where in the first instance management is organic with agro-ecological principles that conserve the components of the agroecosystems and in the second case the systems use intensive management with inadequate practices that degrade soil properties and cause the loss of functional biodiversity (22, 23, 26).



Functional groups: DET - Detritivores, HER - Herbivores, OMN - Omnivores, DEP - Predators. The codes F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 and F6 are the Conventional system (C), F7, F8 are the Transition II system (T2) and finally F9, F10, F11, F12 and F13 are the Transition I system (T1).

Grupos funcionales: DET - Detritívoros, HER - Herbívoros, OMN - Omnívoros, DEP - Depredadores. Los indicativos F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 y F6 son los sistemas Convencionales (C), F7, F8 son los sistemas en Transición II (T2) y por último F9, F10, F11, F12 y F13 son los sistemas en Transición I (T1).

Figure 1. Biplot of functional groups of edaphic macrofauna by sampling sites and management typologies of coffee systems.

Figura 1. Biplot de los grupos funcionales de la macrofauna edáfica por sitios de muestreos y tipologías de manejo de sistemas cafeteros.

With regard to soil use, the Biplot analysis confirmed that there is a greater interaction of the soil communities in the coffee and banana systems, since these systems present crops of different sizes throughout the year, offering invertebrates plant cover, fresh food, low temperatures, shelter and favorable conditions for their development and reproduction, which is evidenced in the Transition I and II systems, while there is a positive effect on the growth and reproduction of the soil. These results have coincided with different scientific research (10, 24).

CONCLUSIONS

The functional composition of edaphic macrofauna under three components of the plant arrangement of coffee-growing systems was determined. In Conventional systems, the most abundant functional groups were predators, omnivores and herbivores; bioindicators of imbalance and disturbance of the soil, while in the Transition I and II systems the greatest abundance of detritivores was found;

bioindicators of fertility and soil stability. The greater interrelationship of the functional groups of the edaphic macrofauna by management typologies was presented in the order Transition II>Transition I>Conventional, being the latter, the most disturbed systems and with low fertility, which makes them more prone to progressive degradation of soils, and by components of the plant arrangement in the order Banana>Coffee Crops>Furrows. From the agroecological approach, the functional groups of the edaphic macrofauna establish in the coffee systems interrelationships and key synergies for management above and within the soil, fundamental pillars in the restructuring and encouragement of processes between the components for agroecological conversion, towards sustainable and biodiverse systems. This research is a vital tool for agroecologists who wish to deepen in the efficiency of the biological processes that regulate the biodiversity and it is part of the agroecosystems complexity, under different management types in order to guarantee sustainability and resilience of coffee-growing systems or other agricultural sectors.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Authors thank the economic support of the research project financed by CODI (COL0009556) - Universidad de Antioquia.

To all participant research groups and all coffee-growers in Santa Rita village in Andes municipality.