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Abstract

This study provides the preliminary information of the slugs and semi-slugs of Rwanda. This study was done in Rwanda. The visual searching was used for collection of individuals. The individuals were grouped into 2 families, 6 genera and 19 species. Seven (slugs and semi-slugs) new species were found. One of the seven new species is an introduced species.

Therefore, further studies should be carried out on the introduced species. To document its coverage area, impacts on human health and agricultural production sector. Also there are still a need for molecular analysis of the new 4 semi-slugs species and their anatomical aspects (radula and the internal shell).

Other studies of this kind should be done in different vegetation types and altitudinal ranges in and outside protected areas of Rwanda.

Introduction

Invertebrate are the most abundant organism on earth. The slugs and semi-slugs are among of the invertebrates. The slugs and semi-slugs are grouped in what is called gastropods.

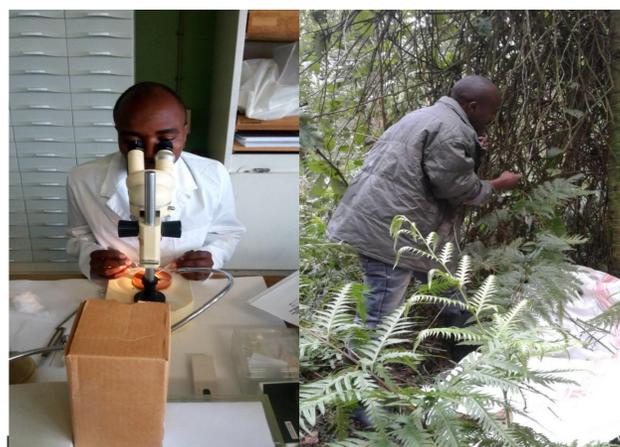
Most people are interested in conducting studies on vertebrate and invertebrates like butterflies, gorillas and bats. And less attention is given to the slugs and semi-slugs.

Slugs and semi-slugs play a big role in the ecosystem including leaf-litter recycling. Their slime is used for healing wounds and treatment of warts. Therefore, this study aimed to provide preliminarily information of slugs and semi-slugs of Rwanda.



Methodology

This study was done in the mountainous forests of Rwanda. From August 2017 till August 2019. In Muhungwe Mountain, Gishwati-Mukura, Nyungwe and Volcanoes NPs. The visual searching technics was used to collect individuals. The collected individuals were identified, grouped into different categories, according to their families, genera and species.



Results

Overall 450 individuals were collected, grouped into 2 families, 6 genera and 19 species. Seven new specie were found in Rwanda. One of the seven new species is an introduced species.



Conclusion

The finding of an introduced species is of great importance in agricultural sector, natural recourse and ecosystem management. Therefore, further studies should be carried to document its coverage area, impacts on human health and agricultural sector. Molecular analysis of the 4 semi-slugs species and their anatomical aspects (radula and the internal shell).



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