

Aquatic Invertebrate Fauna of Song Thanh Nature Reserve in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

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Abstract: The study analyzed the composition of the aquatic invertebrate fauna of Song Thanh Nature Reserve in Quang Nam province of Vietnam. This investigation was realized in March and September 2015. As a result, a total of 166 species belonging to two groups, the zooplankton group has 12 species, 11 genera, 9 families, 3 orders, 2 classes and the zoobenthos group has 154 species, 120 genera, 59 families, 13 orders, 4 classes. The most richness class is insecta with 141 species, 109 genera, 52 families, 9 orders. Moreover, pH is the environmental parameter that has more effective than others on zoobenthos group both in dry and rainy seasons; whereas, turbidity and total dissolved solids are two factors that effect more strongly than others on zooplankton group. The number of zooplankton species in dry season is lower than in rainy season and in contrast with zoobenthos species. The species of Crustacea and Bivalvia classes are invisible in the dry season, they only appear the species that belong to insecta and Gastropoda classes.

Keywords: Aquatic invertebrate, fauna, Song Thanh, Nature Reserve, Vietnam.

1. Introduction

Song Thanh Nature Reserve is not only the first but also the largest area which was established in the West of Quang Nam province. It is conterminous with the Viet – Lao border and belong to Nam Giang and Phuoc Son district.

Song Thanh Nature Reserve shares borders with National Route 14D from Thanh My to Dac Oc border gate (link between Vienam and Lao) on the West East, Kon Tum province on the South (in the peak of Lo So pass), the water

divide between Thanh River and Cai River on the East, and Lao PDR on the West.

Its forest resources are diverse and abundant. Especially, there were 49 species of plants and 22 species of rare birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles in Vietnam Red Data Book (2007) and IUCN Red List (2009). It is recorded 301 vertebrate fauna which belong to 89 families, 28 orders; including 53 species of mammal, 183 species of bird, 44 species of reptile, 21 species of amphibian and 25 freshwater fish species. The investigated results showed that there weresome large mammals such as *Pantheratigris*, *Pardus* spp., *Ursus thibetanus*. Song Thanh endemic species include *Pygathrix nemaesus*, *Pygathrix cinerea*, *Muntiacus vuquangensis*, *Muntiacus trungsonensis*... They are species which have

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high conservation values and biodiversity in Southeast Asia and around the world.

The previous studies have focused on some terrestrial species. Song Thanh Nature Reserve has insufficient data about freshwater species, especially invertebrate groups. Therefore, objectives of this study is to provide a new database of aquatic invertebrate fauna and their relationship with some environmental characteristics in this area for further research in future.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study area

A field trip was conducted in 12 sampling sites in the stream system of Song Thanh Nature Reserve, Quang Nam province in 2 seasons: Dry season: March 2015; Rainy season: September 2015.

All of sampling sites are the streams that are denoted by twelve corresponding sites, from 1 to 12, as below:

Location	Coordinates	Stream name
Site1	15°38'54''N;107°37'29''E	Tra Vinh
Site2	15°36'06''N;107°38'38''E	Ta Vat
Site3	15°35'06''N;107°42'20''E	Song Thanh
Site4	15°35'20''N;107°26'55''E	Dak Dong
Site5	15°34'54'' N;107°27'27''E	La De
Site6	15°32'50''N; 107°31'50''E	Dak Vich
Site7	15°31'31''N; 107°35'24''E	Dak Leng
Site8	15°33'00''N; 107°39'35''E	Pa La Ga
Site9	15°20'30''N;107°44'20''E	Xa Ga
Site10	15°35'29''N; 107°31'26''E	Cha Kiep
Site11	15°34'40''N;107°31'46''E	Cha Kop
Site12	15°34'51''N; 107°33'30''E	Dak Ring

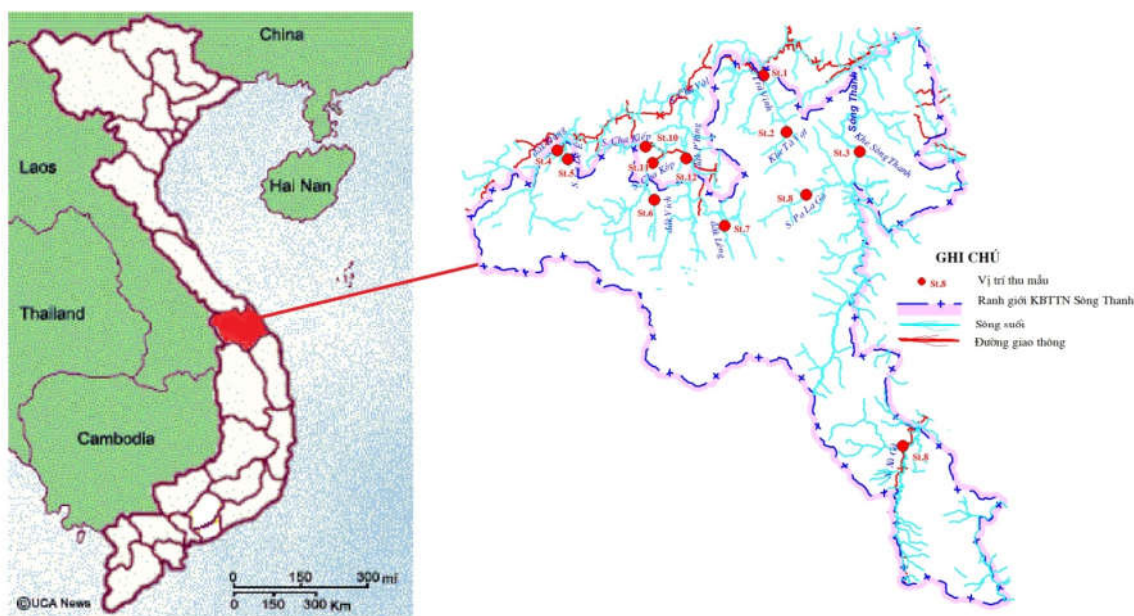


Fig. 1. Sampling sites at major stream at Song Thanh Nature Reserve.

2.2. Methods

Zooplankton species and zoobenthos species was collected by methods illustrated through the researches on freshwater invertebrate of Dang NT (1974) and Nguyen XQ (1995, 2004). [1- 3]

Zooplankton sampling method

Taking qualitative sample by zooplankton nets, No. 52 (52 mesh holes/cm). At each site, swinging the net slowly through the water.

Taking quantitative sample by filtering 10 liters of water over the Plankton net No. 57 (57 mesh holes/cm), retrieved 50 ml.

After obtained, the Samples would be held in a vial of capacity of 0.2 liters, with etyket and fixed by 90% alcohol.

Zoobenthos sampling method

Taking qualitative sample by pond net. When collecting samples, using pond net to scour on grass, small coastal shrubs or floating aquatic trees. For some larvae insects which usually cling to rocks in water, near the shore, using Kick-sampling in the platform or lifting up the stones and rummaging. For insects that lived on the water, captured fastly by the hand net.

Taking quantitative sample by Subber net which has the size 50cm x50 cm. Samples obtained by sieving to remove mud, gravel and other substrates.

After obtained, the Samples would be held in a vial of capacity of 0.2 liters, with etyket and fixed by 90% alcohol.

After the field trip, all samples were shaped, preserved and dissected at the Institute of Ecology and Works protection. Samples were picked from mud and litter, preserved in 90% alcohol with etyket before dissecting.

Analytical instruments are microscopes, magnifying glasses, petri dishes, microscope slide, cover slip, sharp needles, forceps... Invertebrate were identified to species level or the lowest possible taxonomic levels based on the available references, e.g., Brandt (1974), Cao T.K.T (2002), Hoang Duc Huy (2005),

John *et al.* (1994), Nguyen XQ *et al.* (2001), Dang NT *et al.* (1980), Dang NT (1980, 2002, 2003, 2004), Dang NT và Ho TH (2001, 2002, 2007, 2012), Dang NT and Do VT (2007), Nguyen Van Vinh (2003), Nguyen Van Vinh and Bae Y.J (2005). [4-20]

Quantitative zooplankton samples were counted by improving Bogorov counting chamber under stereoscopic magnifier, the units: individuals / m³.

Quantitative zoobenthos samples were counted visually by naked eye or using magnifying glass, the units: individuals / m².

In addition to species samples, 6 physiochemical parameters were measured for each site, including Temperature (°C); pH, Turbidity (NTU); Conductivity (mS/cm); Dissolved oxygen (DO-mg/l); Total dissolved solids (TDS, mg/l).

2.3. Data analysis

The data was stored and managed by Excel program (MS Office™ v. 2007). Some ecological analyses were performed by using statistical software of PRIMER™ v.6 with a prior data transformation. The analysis includes DIVERSE (Shannon Weiner index, H'); number of species, S; number of individuals or abundance, N; CLUSTER analysis (Bray-Curtis similarity and the cluster mode of group average).

Determining the relationship between the biomes with environmental factors: BEST (Biota and/or Environment matching, BIO-ENV). BIO-ENV consists of 2 matrices: Similarity of biological data matrix (using Bray-Curtis similarity index) and environmental factors matrix (using the - Euclidean distance). Rho correlation coefficient (ρ) is calculated based on two matrices via Spearman correlation range. The results of BIO-ENV would identify and classify a subset of environmental variables corresponding to species composition of the Samples by Rho ($p = 0.01$).

3. Results

3.1. Environmental characteristics of streams

Study results about environmental characteristics of stream includes altitude; substrate; water width, temperature, pH, turbidity, conductance, dissolved oxygen and total dissolved solids in rainy season and dry season were presented in Table 1.

The bottom substrate of the streams was mainly sand, gravels and boulders; little mud litter and leaf litter. Water width has changed between rainy season and dry season. The average altitude of streams was 452.3 ± 177.4 m. The average water temperature, the average pH, the average turbidity, the average conductance, the average dissolved oxygen, the average total dissolved solids in dry season were $28.44 \pm 1.39^\circ\text{C}$, 6.95 ± 0.44 , 68.68 ± 30.91 (NTU), 0.034 ± 0.018 (mS/cm), 5.58 ± 0.54 (mg/l), 41.67 ± 21.67 (mg/l) respectively, and in rainy season are $25.1 \pm 0.41^\circ\text{C}$, 7.08 ± 0.19 , 140.96 ± 30.95 (NTU), 0.023 ± 0.007 (mS/cm), 6.70 ± 0.56 (mg/l), 50.0 ± 30.15 (mg/l) respectively. Based on the National criteria for surface waters (MONRE, 2011), values of the 3 environmental parameters met the requirement for aquatic fauna reserve.

3.2. Species diversity

The results have identified a total number of 166 aquatic invertebrate species in 12 sites of Song Thanh Reserve, of which there were 12 species of zooplankton in 11 genera, 9 families, 3 orders, 2 classes; 154 species of zoobenthos belong to 120 genera, 59 families, 13 orders, 4 classes.

Zooplankton: Some families in Rotatoria phylum have 1 genus and 1 species such as Brachionidae (*Branchionus caudatus*), Asplanchnidae (*Asplanchnopus multiceps*), Euchlanidae (*Euchlanis dilatata*) and Trichocercidae (*Trichocerca capucina*). Especially, Lecanidae has 1 genus (*Lecane*) and 2 species (*Lecane bulla* and *Lecane luna*).

Some families in this Arthropoda have 1 genus and 1 species such as Bosminidae

(*Bosminopsis deitersi*) and Diaptomidae (*Allodiaptomus mieni*). Families has 1 genus and 1 species that is Chydoridae (*Chydorus sphaericus sphaericus* and *Dunhevedia crassa*) and Macrothricidae (*Macrothrix triserialis* and *Ilyocryptus haiyi*).

Species were found frequently at the study sites were *Allodiaptomus mieni* (10/12 study sites), *Bosminopsis deitersi* (8/12 study sites), *Macrothrix triserialis* (7/12 study sites). *Trichocercacapucina* was only found at La De stream and Dak Ring stream.

Zoobenthos: Ephemeroptera and Odonata have the highest taxonomic levels compared with others. Ephemeroptera had 10 families, 26 genera, 40 species; Odonata with 11 families, 22 genera, 25 species; Followed by Trichoptera with 8 families, 13 genera, 18 species; Coleoptera with 7 families, 15 genera, 16 species; Hemiptera with 7 families, 10 genera, 16 species; Decapoda with 3 families, 4 genera, 5 species; Plecoptera with 1 families, 8 genera, 9 species; Sorbeoconcha with 2 families, 5 genera, 5 species; Megaloptera with 1 family, 1 genus, 2 species. The Lepidoptera, Panpulmonata, Veneroida had only 1 genus, 1 family, 1 species.

Heptagenidae has the highest species with 10 species, 7 genera (*Afromurus*, *Asionurus*, *peorus*, *Paegniodes*, *Rhithrogena*, *Thalerophyrus*, *Trichogenia*), followed by Perlidae with 9 species, 8 genera (*Calineuria*, *Kamimuria*, *Kiotina*, *Neoperla*, *Periesta*, *Phanoperla*, *Phanoperla*, *Tetropina*, *Tongoperla*) và Gomphidae with 9 species, 7 genera (*Gastrogomphus*, *Heliogomphus*, *Heliogomphus*, *Macrogomphus*, *Megalogomphus*, *Meliogomphus*, *Labrogomphus*, *Leptogomphus*, *Sinictinogomphus*), Baetidae with 8 species, 5 genera (*Acentrella*, *Baetis*, *Labiobaetis*, *Nigrobaetis*, *Procoeon*), Chironomidae with 5 species, 5 genera (*Ablabesmyia*, *Chironomus*, *Diamesa*, *Kiefferulus*, *Thienemannimyia*) and Elmidae (*Dryomophus*, *Grouvellinus*, *Ordobrevia*, *Stenelmis*, *Zaitzevia*). The remaining orders were found 1 to 4 species.

Table 1. Environmental data of streams at Song Thanh Nature Reserve

Location	Altitude (m)	Substrate	Dry Season							Rainy Season						
			Water width (m)	Water temp. (oC)	pH	T (NTU)	C (mS/cm)	DO (mg/l)	TDS (mg/l)	Water width (m)	Water temp. (oC)	pH	T (NTU)	C (mS/cm)	DO (mg/l)	TDS (mg/l)
Site1	292	S,G,P,B, L	3-4	29.1	6.7	108.7	0.017	4.96	40	3-5	24.7	7.2	146.2	0.014	5.79	70
Site2	313	S,G, B, L,M	4-6	28.8	6.7	50.3	0.013	5.69	30	5-6	24.8	7.2	125.8	0.015	6.82	10
Site3	204	B,S,G, M	5-6	28.9	6.4	73.4	0.026	5.22	20	6-8	25	7.2	124.3	0.022	7.62	10
Site4	461	S,G,P,M	5-7	28.8	6.8	109.9	0.068	5.47	50	8-10	25.2	7.1	167.6	0.03	7.55	40
Site5	583	P,S,M,B	7-12	26	6.8	23.1	0.031	5.64	30	8-13	25.3	7.1	126.7	0.022	6.96	10
Site6	849	S,G,B	4-7	29.4	6.8	64.2	0.059	5.23	90	6-9	25.6	7.3	122.6	0.033	6.75	60
Site7	657	B,G,S,M	6-8	28.5	6.7	95.8	0.031	6.31	50	6-9	26.1	6.9	126.7	0.017	6.2	90
Site8	347	S,G,B	4-7	28.7	6.8	60.4	0.025	6.63	50	6-8	25.2	6.6	131.3	0.033	6.25	60
Site9	419	S,G, B	4-6	29.3	6.8	78.6	0.058	6.03	50	5-6	24.9	6.9	156.4	0.018	7.23	80
Site10	490	S,G,P,B	4-5	25.3	7.8	14	0.023	5.77	60	4-6	24.7	7.2	225.8	0.017	6.54	30
Site11	457	B,S,P	2-3	30.1	7.7	93.2	0.02	4.87	10	3-5	25	7.2	124.6	0.03	6.34	90
Site12	356	G,P,M,B,L	7-15	28.4	7.5	52.6	0.036	5.23	20	10-15	24.7	7.1	113.5	0.032	6.29	50
Mean±SD	452.3 ±177.4			28.44 ±1.39	6.95 ±0.44	68.68 ±30.91	0.034 ±0.018	5.58 ±0.54	41.67 ±21.67		25.1 ±0.41	7.08 ±0.19	140.96 ±30.95	0.023 ±0.007	6.70 ±0.56	50.0 ±30.15

Water width was measured at the sampling points

T (NTU): Turbidity; C (mS/cm): Conductance; DO (mg/l): dissolved oxygen; TDS (mg/l): Total dissolved solids

SD: Standard deviation

Substrate: S: sand, G: gravel, P: Pebble, B: boulder, L: leaf litter, M: mud litter

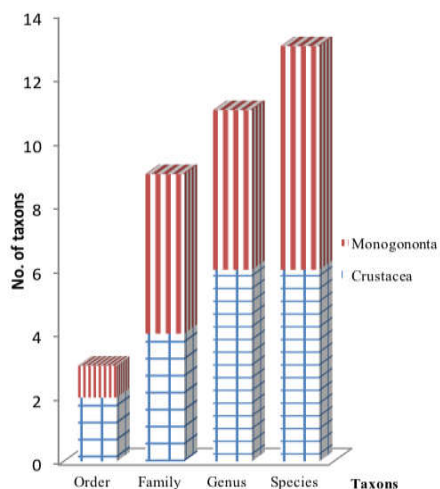


Fig. 2. Taxonomic group of Zooplankton.

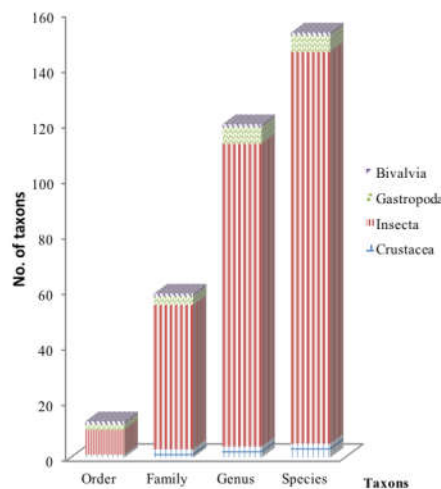


Fig. 3. Taxonomic group of Zoobenthos.

Species occurred regularly in study sites were *Paegniodesdao* và *Hydropsyche bidens* (12/12 study sites), *Phanoperla* sp. and *Stenopsyche siamensis* (11/12 study sites), *Allodiaptomus mieni*, *Branchycerus* sp.1, *Lepidostoma* sp., *Gestroiella limnocoroides* (10/12 study sites), *Rhoenanthusmagnificus*, *Hydropsyche betteni*, *Corydalis* sp. 1, *Aeschnophlebia* sp. (9/12 study sites), *Bosminopsis deitersi*, *Baetis* sp.1, *Simulium fenestratum*, *Labiobaetis* sp.2, *Ephemera* sp.1, *Ephemera* sp.2, *Diplectrona modesta*, *Eulichas* sp. (8/12 study sites).

According to the IUCN Red list, in 2016, there were 15 species at LC level and two species at DD level.

The number and composition structure invertebrate species at Song Thanh Natura Reserve were lower and different with Nature Reserve and Vinh Cuu relics, Dong Nai Province. Ngo Xuan Nam (2014) [21] have identified 303 species belonging to 207 genera, 107 families, 27 orders, 9 classes, 5 phylums; in which, 66 species of zooplankton belongs to 42 genera, 20 families, 6 orders, 2 classes, 237 of zoobenthos included in 165 genera, 87 families, 21 orders, 8 classes. The difference in the

number and composition structure of species between two study areas was caused by environmental conditions. In this study, the authors also point out that Insecta had a dominant by 192 species. Besides, the number of zoobenthos in this study was higher than the study of Le Hung Anh et al (2014) [22], in Central Highlands, have identified 60 species of zoobenthos (47 shellfish species, 43 oyster species). The oysters in Central Highlands was more abundant than in the Song Thanh Nature Reserve's.

The number of Insecta species in this study was lower than Sang Woo Jung's (2007) in Sapa (216 species belonging to 139 genera, 61 families and 9 orders), Nguyen et al's. (2001) in Tam Dao National Park (145 species, 127 genera and 63 families), Cao et al.'s (2008) in Bach Ma National Park (143 species, 119 genera and 65 families), and Hoang and Bae's (2006) in Dak Pri stream (268 species, 230 genera and 91 families) [23-25]. Ephemeroptera had the highest species number (40/141 Insecta species, 28,4%), this rule was in line with study by Nguyen et al (2001), Cao et al (2008) at the tropical streams [26, 24].

Therefore, the species composition of invertebrate in the Song Thanh Nature Reserve has enormous differences among these classes, and in comparison with other regions in Vietnam. In studies on aquatic invertebrate in the various forms of streams in Vietnam, Insecta dominated by the species composition than the other classes. Aside from, due to fundamental differences between two habitats in the water layer and substrate that makes species composition between the zooplankton and zoobenthos at the same study area become dissimilar.

3.3. Biodiversity and environment status

The result of BEST analysis about the correlation between environmental parameters and zoobenthos and zooplankton showed that:

Zooplankton: In the dry season, the combination of environmental parameters, including turbidity, conductance and total dissolved solids, have effected more strongly than others on zooplankton ($Rho=0.145$, $p=0.01$). In the rainy season, the group of environmental factors, including turbidity and total dissolved solids, have effected more strongly than others ($Rho=0.357$, $p=0.01$).

Zoobenthos: In the dry season, pH and total dissolved solids are two invironmental factors that have impact more than others on zoobenthos ($Rho = 0.141$, $p=0.01$). In the rainy season, the group of parameters, including pH, conductance and dissolved oxygen, have effected more than others ($Rho = 0.370$, $p=0.01$).

As the result, pH is environmental parametersthat has more effective than others on zoobenthos group not only in dry season but also in rainy season; whereas, turbidity and total dissolved solids are two factors that effect more strongly than others on zooplankton group.

The result of this investigation is differen with Ngo (2014) at streams of Vinh Cuu Relic and Nature Reserve, Dong Nai province, that is combination factors of temperature and

turbidity have impacted on zooplankton in the dry season ($Rho=0.179$), but in the rainy season, temperature and turbidity have effected on zoobenthos ($Rho=0.389$), and temperature is the factor has effected more strongly than others in both rainy and dry season ($Rho=0.281$ and 0.488).

3.4. The difference of community

The aquatic invertebrate fauna of the Song Thanh Nature Reserve also has been changed as environmental condition variances between rainy season and dry season. The Bray – Curtis similarity matrix indicates that 26.18% species is similar between two seasons. The number of zooplankton species in dry season is lower than in rainy season, in contrast to zoobenthos species. In the rainy season, the zooplankton including 11 species, 10 genera, 9 families, 3 orders and the zoobenthos group has 65 species, 57 genera, 36 families, 12 orders. While, in dry season, there were 7 zooplankton species belonging to 6 genera, 6 families, 3 orders and 108 zoobenthos species are in 87 genera, 49 families, 10 orders. In the zooplankton community, *Dunhevedia crassa* come into view in the rainy season, at 6 streams/12 streams. The above rule accords to Ngo NX (2014) [21].

The species of Crustacea and Bivalvia classes are invisible in the dry season, but only appear the species that belong to Insecta class (107 species) and Gastropoda (1 species). However, in the rainy season, there were 65 species that 5 species are in crustacea class, 53 species belong to Insecta class, 6 species are in Gastropoda class and only 1 species is in Bivalvia class.

For the difference of species combination and individual density, the number of species (S), Shannon Weiner (H') index is changed in other seasons, between zooplankton and zoobenthos.

The S and H' index of zoobenthos group is higher in dry season than in rainy season, in contrast with S and H' index of zooplankton (Table 2.)

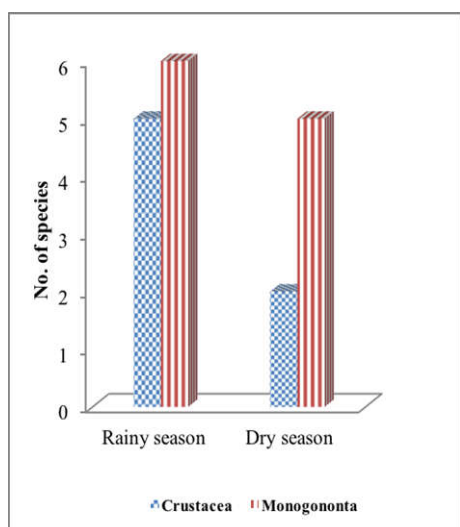


Fig. 4. Number of species in different seasons of Zooplankton.

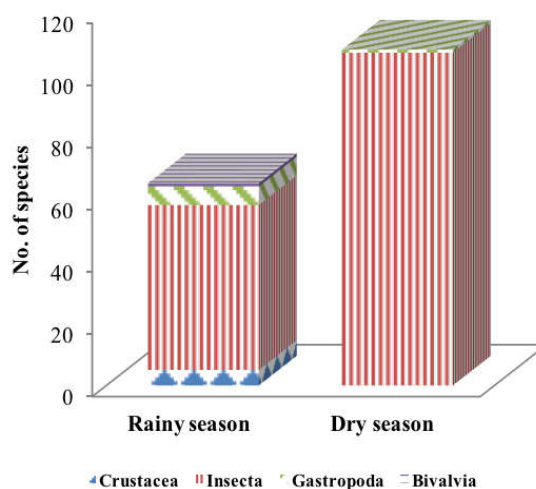


Fig.5. Number of species in different seasons of Zoobenthos.

Fig. 10 Number of species of Zoobenthos and Zooplankton.

As a result of MDS analysis show that the similarity about the species components between site 6 and site 8 (Bray – Curtis index equal 72.44%), site 9 and site 2 (Bray – Curtis

index equal 82.35%), because of the difference of environmental conditons of these sites are highly similar.

Table 2. S and H' index of streams at at Song Thanh Nature Reserve

Location	Dry Season				Rainy Season			
	Zoobenthos		Zooplankton		Zoobenthos		Zooplankton	
	S	H'(loge)	S	H'(loge)	S	H'(loge)	S	H'(loge)
Site1	25	2.92	3	1.03	19	2.77	5	1.59
Site2	19	2.62	3	1.08	16	2.62	4	1.37
Site3	17	2.55	2	0.68	15	2.41	5	1.52
Site4	20	2.56	4	1.37	14	2.48	5	1.57
Site5	20	2.79	4	1.38	13	2.43	6	1.76
Site6	20	2.73	3	1.07	14	2.49	4	1.29
Site7	13	2.40	3	1.10	13	2.44	3	1.09
Site8	17	2.66	3	1.06	16	2.54	5	1.58
Site9	19	2.67	3	1.09	13	2.43	4	1.29
Site10	21	2.86	4	1.38	12	2.34	5	1.59
Site11	16	2.47	4	1.37	12	2.34	5	1.51
Site12	21	2.725	4	1.37	15	2.47	7	1.92
Mean±SD	19 ± 3.01	2.66 ± 0.15	3.33 ± 0.65	1.16 ± 0.21	14.33 ± 2.01	2.48 ± 0.12	4.83 ± 1.02	1.51 ± 0.22

4. Conclusion

There were total 166 species belonging to two groups, the zooplankton group includes 12 species, 11 genera, 9 families, 3 orders, 2 classes and the zoobenthos group includes 154 species, 120 genera, 59 families, 13 orders, 4 classes. The most richness class is insecta with 141 species.

pH is environmental parameters has more effective than others on zoobenthos group both in dry and rainy seasons; whereas, turbidity and total dissolved solids are two factors that effect more st

The Bray – Curtis similarity matrix indicates that 26.18% species is similar between two seasons. The number of zooplankton species in dry season is lower than in rainy season and in contrast with zoobenthos species. The species of Crustacea and Bivalvia classes are invisible in the dry season.

The S and H' index of zoobenthos group is higher in dry season than in rainy season , in constrast with S and H' index of zooplankton.

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Thành phần loài động vật không xương sống ở nước của khu bảo tồn thiên nhiên Sông Thanh, tỉnh Quảng Nam, Việt Nam

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Tóm tắt: Kết quả điều tra, khảo sát thu thập vật mẫu vào các tháng 3 và tháng 9 năm 2015 tại 12 địa điểm nghiên cứu tại Khu bảo tồn thiên nhiên Sông Thanh, tỉnh Quảng Nam đã xác định được 166 loài động vật không xương sống ở nước thuộc hai nhóm động vật nổi và động vật đáy. Trong đó, động vật nổi có 12 loài thuộc 11 giống, 9 họ, 3 bộ, 2 lớp và động vật đáy có 154 loài thuộc 120 giống, 59 họ, 13 bộ, 4 lớp. Chiếm ưu thế là các đại diện của lớp côn trùng với 141 loài thuộc 109 giống, 52 họ, 9 bộ. pH là thông số môi trường tương quan chặt hơn với các loài động vật đáy cả trong mùa mưa và mùa khô; Trong khi đó, độ đục và tổng chất rắn hòa tan là hai yếu tố môi trường ảnh hưởng mạnh hơn so với các yếu tố khác đối với động vật nổi. Số lượng các loài động vật nổi vào mùa khô thấp hơn mùa mưa. Vào mùa khô, không thu được mẫu thuộc các lớp Crustacea và Bivalvia, chủ yếu là các đại diện của lớp Insecta và Gastropoda.

Từ khóa: Động vật không xương sống ở nước, động vật, Sông Thanh, Khu bảo tồn thiên nhiên, Việt Nam.