

Public Abstract

First Name:Ely

Middle Name:

Last Name:Kosnicki

Adviser's First Name:Robert

Adviser's Last Name:Sites

Co-Adviser's First Name:

Co-Adviser's Last Name:

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Title:NOVEL APPROACHES IN MACROINVERTEBRATE BIOMONITORING

Two separate studies are presented to address aspects of freshwater macroinvertebrate biological monitoring. The first study focused on evaluation of Grass Riparian Filter Strip (GRFS) effectiveness. Ecological measures of the freshwater benthic macroinvertebrates were used to assess the habitat quality of streams in north central Missouri. A novel monitoring tool called a Least Desired Index (LDI) was compared to a benthic macroinvertebrate index of biotic integrity (B-IBI), which is a conventional tool. B-IBI determined that the GRFS sites showed moderate improvements where the LDI showed that the GRFS sites made no improvements. The LDI was considered to be a more realistic assessment considering that the GRFS at the test sites had only been established for 2 years and the reference streams used to construct the B-IBI were most likely impaired. The second study utilized a state designated reference stream as a case study for temporally profiling the community structure. Samples of benthic macroinvertebrates and water quality were taken approximately monthly. Rare and transient taxa were classified and eliminated from further analysis. Maturity weighted abundances showed significant changes in community measures and were found to be useful in aspects of other analyses. Few community measures exhibited low variation over the annual period, and fewer were predictable, indicating that seasonal variation can have a significant impact on measurements used in biological monitoring. A predictive model biologically classified three seasons. Overall, the model moderately predicted community structure, also highlighting that macroinvertebrate communities are difficult to consistently quantify.