

Diversity And Abundance of Arthropods Infesting Economic Trees in The Federal School of Forestry, Plateau State, North Central Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Arthropod diversity is crucial for the survival of economic trees, as arthropods serve as pests, pollinators, decomposers and herbivores. This study aimed to investigate the diversity and abundance of arthropods on economically important trees. During the rainy season (June-July 2023), arthropods were collected using hand-picking, beating and sweep-netting methods. A total of 883 arthropods were collected from 28 different economic tree species, with 188 (21.41%) collected using sweep netting, 63 (7.13%) using the beating method and 631 (71.46%) through hand-picking. These arthropods belonged to 4 classes, 13 orders, 51 families and 69 species. The Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index (H') for the arthropod community was 4.07535, indicating a high level of diversity. This index also revealed significant variations in arthropod diversity, with Hymenoptera, Formicidae and *Monomorium minimum* being the most abundant taxa and *Monomorium minimum* being the most diverse arthropod, identified on 12 out of 28 economic tree species. This study highlights the strong association between economic trees and arthropods, with trees influencing arthropod diversity while providing benefits such as food, shelter and breeding grounds. Therefore, biological conservation is essential for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Keywords: Economic trees, Arthropods, Forestry, Abundance, Diversity

Introduction

Economic trees support a rich diversity of associated arthropods, including herbivores, detritivores, predators and parasites¹. These trees are assemblages of conserved, biodiverse tree species, with the majority being native and some exotic.

Among all forest resources, trees are categorized as a primary product due to their high economic value². A crucial association in terrestrial ecosystems exists between economic trees and arthropods, driven by the feedback between these two groups of organisms. Plants provide habitat and food, while arthropods can

alter plant diversity^{3,4}. Arthropods contribute to decomposition, mediate plant reproduction and disperse seeds⁵. The relationship between economic trees and arthropods is further characterized by the impact of beneficial arthropod predators (e.g., spiders, beetles) on guild diversity, suppressing and regulating phytophagous pest populations⁶. Approximately one-quarter of all insect species are phytophagous, playing a vital role as consumers of plant resources and serving as food for predators [7]. Members of various orders, including Hymenoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Phasmida orthoptera, Hemiptera, Dermaptera, Homoptera and Lepidoptera, are naturally herbivorous, although they can also be considered pests and biocontrol agents of weeds, causing harm to beneficial plants and trees in many ecosystems¹. Arthropods play a crucial role on economic trees, acting as herbivores, predators, decomposers, pollinators and parasitosis to other pests. Their characteristics, such as high diversity, small body size, high reproductive capacity, acute sensitivity to environmental changes and ease of sampling, make them suitable for environmental monitoring⁸. Furthermore, arthropods are often used as biological indicators of ecosystem integrity⁹. The diversity of arthropods on economic trees encompasses two aspects: species richness (i.e., the number of species in a set of samples) and equitability (i.e., the number of individuals of each species in a sample)⁸. This information can be reliably used to determine the type and number of arthropods on economic trees, including their functions and habitat conditions¹⁰. Therefore, developing practical procedures for estimating arthropod biodiversity is a high priority, aiming to produce a protocol that samples arthropods from many components of ecosystems¹¹.

Materials and Methods

Study area

The Federal College of Forestry, Jos, is situated in the heart of Jos North, along Bauchi Road, Plateau State, North-Central Nigeria. Specifically, it is located at latitude 9°56'48" North and longitude 8°53'34" East. Established in 1958 by the then Northern Nigeria Regional Government, the institution was originally known as the Northern Nigeria School of Forestry, Jos. Today, it is a multi-disciplinary tertiary institution that provides training in forestry, agriculture, wood technology, environmental services and forest-related organizations, playing a vital role in the country's forestry sector.

Sample period

Sampling was conducted on a daily basis over a four-week period in 2023. For each tree species, an average of at least 30 minutes was allocated for sampling.

Techniques for the collection of arthropods

Arthropods were collected within the forest reserve of the school, which was divided into six sections to facilitate sampling. A stratified sampling procedure was employed to ensure representative sampling. Sampling efforts targeted arthropods active during the daytime, including leaf-chewing and sap-sucking arthropods, as well as flying insects around the trees. The collection methods used included sweep netting for flying insects, hand-picking for leaf-chewing and sap-sucking arthropods, as well as those crawling on the ground and trees. Additionally, the beating sampling method was used where applicable. Collected arthropods were immobilized in 70% ethanol for subsequent identification and quantification in the laboratory.

Identification and quantification of arthropods

The contents of each sample bottle were carefully poured into a petri dish, where the arthropods were sorted and identified. Identification was facilitated using a combination of resources, including the photographic atlas of Entomology and Castner's¹² guide to insect identification. Additionally android application tools such as Picture Insect and Google Lens were employed to aid in identification. For more precise generic and specific identifications, the systematic and taxonomic laboratory of the Department of Science Laboratory Technology, University of Jos, Nigeria was consulted.

Statistical analysis

The data obtained were analysed using R Console Software version 2.9.2. Chi-square (χ^2) tests were employed to compare the mean abundance of arthropod Orders, Families and Species. Level of significance was set at $P < 0.05$.

Species diversity index

Arthropod species diversity was calculated using the Shannon-Wiener diversity index (H'):

$$H' = - \sum_{i=1}^S (P_i) (\ln P_i)$$

Where:

H' is the diversity index

P_i is the proportion of individual species

S is the total number of species on the trees

i is the proportion of species.

Results

A total of 883 arthropods, representing 69 species, 51 families, 13 orders and 4 classes, were collected from 28 distinct types of economic trees at the Federal School of Forestry. Three collection methods were employed: beating, hand picking and sweep netting (Table 1). The majority of arthropods (71.46%, $n = 631$) were collected through hand picking, followed by sweep netting (21.41%, $n = 189$) and beating (7.13%, $n = 63$). The abundance of arthropod orders varied significantly across economic trees ($\chi^2 = 1215.281$, $df = 324$, $p < 0.001$). Hymenoptera was the most abundant order, comprising 54.50% ($n = 481$) of the total arthropods collected. In contrast, Lithobiomorpha was the least abundant order, with only 2 individuals (0.20%). A significant difference was also observed in the abundance of arthropod families ($\chi^2 = 2053.366$, $df = 1350$, $p < 0.001$). Formicidae was the most abundant family, accounting for 50.50% ($n = 446$) of the total arthropods. Conversely, 11 families (Bibionidae, Bombyliidae, Archoteermeigidae, Cetoniidae, Coccinellidae, Saturniidae, Archotermeigidae, Scarabaedae, Lisiocampidae and Vespidae) were represented by only a single individual each (0.10%) (Table 1). The abundance of arthropod species across different economic trees showed a significant difference ($\chi^2 = 2526.9661$, $df = 1836$, $p < 0.001$). The species *Monomorium minimum* had the highest abundance, accounting for 42.00% ($n = 371$) of the total arthropods. In contrast, nine species (*Bibio marci*, *Utetheisa ornatrix*, *Euphoria kernii*, *Diocleria articapilla*, *Kunugia undans*, *Catocala nupta*, *Vespa orientalis*, *Iris oratoria*) were the least abundant, each represented by only a single individual (0.10%) (Table 1). Regarding the

infestation of economic trees, the mango tree was the most heavily infested, harboring a total of 181 arthropod individuals (20.50%). Conversely, four tree species (African locust beans, *Jatropha*, African peach and common cabbage) showed minimal infestation.

The Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index (H') for the arthropod community was 4.07535, indicating a high level of diversity. Statistical analysis revealed a significant difference in arthropod diversity across the study area ($\chi^2 = 2226.5641$, $df = 1032$, p

< 0.001). The species *Monomorium minimum* exhibited the highest diversity index of 0.20095 when found on Cadaghi trees. Notably, this species was also recorded on 12 out of 28 economic tree species surveyed in this study. In contrast, 13 species (*Bibio marci*, *Utetheisa ornatrix*, *Dioceria articapilla*, *Euphoria kernii*, *Odontota dorsalis*, *Hemileuca maia*, *Kunugia undans*, *Catocala nupta*, *Efferia austans*, *Vespa orientalis*, *Onthophagus taurus* and *Iris oratoria*) showed the lowest diversity index of 0.00768 each, as presented in **Table 2**.

Table 1: Species of Arthropods Infecting Different Economic Trees in the Federal School of Forestry.

Order	Family	Species	Economic Tree	BT	HP	SN	Total	Percent	
Araneae	Trombidiidae	<i>Trombidium holosericeum</i>	Mango tree	-	25	-	25	2.83	
	Sparassidae	<i>Heteropoda venatoria</i>	Guava tree	3	-	-	3	0.34	
	Tetragnathadae	<i>Metelina mengei</i>	Mango tree	6	-	-	6	0.68	
			<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	4	-	-	4	0.45	
	Theridiidae	<i>Steatoda grossa</i>	Cadaghi tree	2	-	-	2	0.23	
			Christ thorn	3	-	-	3	0.34	
			Mango tree	4	-	-	4	0.45	
			Teak	16	-	-	16	1.81	
	Trombidiidae	<i>Trombidium holosericeum</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	20	-	20	2.27	
	Thomisidae	<i>Xysticus cristatus</i>	Tower tree	2	-	-	2	0.23	
Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Mango tree	-	-	1	1	0.11	
	Carculionidae	<i>Odontopus calceatus</i>	Cashew	-	2	-	2	0.23	
			Gulta perchia tree	-	1	-	1	0.11	
	Scarabaedae	<i>Onthophagus taurus</i>	Lemon	-	1	-	1	0.11	
	Chrysomelidae	<i>Donacia semicuprea</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	2	2	0.23	
	Cetoniidae	<i>Euphoria kernii</i>	Mango tree	-	1	-	1	0.11	
	Chrysomelidae	<i>Odontota dorsalis</i>	Flamboyant tree	-	-	1	1	0.11	
	Dryophthoridae	<i>Rhyrichophorus crucutanus</i>	Mango tree	-	-	2	2	0.23	
	Tenebrionidae	<i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	5	5	0.57	
			Shorea tree	-	3	-	3	0.34	
	Chrysomelidae	<i>Trachymela sloani</i>	Mango tree	-	-	2	2	0.23	
	Diptera	Bombyliidae	<i>Anthrax anthrax</i>	Black olive	-	-	1	1	0.11
		Calliphoridae	<i>Chrysomya megacephala</i>	Mango tree	-	-	5	5	0.57
		Asilidae	<i>Dioceria atricapilla</i>	Mango tree	-	-	1	1	0.11
			<i>Efferia austans</i>	Sasswood	-	-	1	1	0.11
Muscidae		<i>Musca domestica</i>	Flamboyant tree	-	-	7	7	0.79	
Syrphidae		<i>Ornidia obesa</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	1	1	0.11	
			<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	-	2	2	0.23	
Vespidae		<i>Vespa orientalis</i>	Tower tree	-	-	1	1	0.11	
Bibionidae		<i>Bibio marci</i>	Mango tree	-	-	1	1	0.11	
Chironomidae		<i>Chironomus plumosus</i>	Black plum tree	-	-	7	7	0.79	
Calliphoridae		<i>Chrysomya megacephala</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	2	2	0.23	
Syrphidae		<i>Ornidia obesa</i>	Mango tree	-	-	3	3	0.34	
Hemiptera		Aphrophoridae	<i>Aphrophora alni</i>	Guava tree	3	-	-	3	0.34
				Mango tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
		Rhopalidae	<i>Boisea trivitatta</i>	Camel’s foot tree	-	15	-	15	1.7
			Common cabbage	-	-	10	10	1.13	
			<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	15	-	15	1.7	
			Mango tree	-	25	-	25	2.83	
	Membracidae	<i>Campylenchia latipes</i>	Cashew	-	-	2	2	0.23	
	Pentatomidae	<i>Carpocois fuscipinus</i>	Albizia tree	-	6	-	6	0.68	
	Coreridae	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	Sasswood	-	9	-	9	1.02	
	Hymenoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Acrotaphus wiltii</i>	<i>Jatropha</i>	-	-	3	3	0.34

	Formicidae	<i>Componotus americanus</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	10	-	10	1.13
		<i>Componotus floridanus</i>	Black olive	-	3	-	3	0.34
			Sasswood	-	7	-	7	0.79
		<i>Componotus pennsylvanicus</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	14	-	14	1.59
	Eumenidae	<i>Delta conoideum</i>	Lowveld fig	-	-	18	18	2.04
			African locust beans	-	-	2	2	0.23
			Black plum tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
			Mango tree	-	-	6	6	0.68
	Formicidae	<i>Linopithemi humile</i>	Mango tree	-	10	-	10	1.13
		<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	African peach	-	21	-	21	2.38
			Albizia tree	-	23	-	23	2.61
			Cadaghi tree	-	70	-	70	7.93
			Cat's claw	-	21	-	21	2.38
			<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	23	-	23	2.61
			Flamboyant tree	-	24	-	24	2.72
			Malaina	-	57	-	57	6.46
			Mango tree	-	12	-	12	1.36
			Pine tree	-	35	-	35	3.96
			Sasswood	-	50	-	50	5.66
			Shorea tree	-	25	-	25	2.83
			Tropical almond	-	10	-	10	1.13
		<i>Oecophylla smaragdina</i>	Mango tree	-	31	-	31	3.51
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Thyreodon articolor</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
Isoptera	Rhinotermitidae	<i>Reticulitermes flavipes</i>	Lemon	-	8	-	8	0.91
			Mango tree	-	9	-	9	1.02
	Archotermeigidae	<i>Zootermopsis angusticollis</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	1	-	1	0.11
Lepidoptera	Hesperiidae	<i>Caprona ransonnetti</i>	Sickle bush	-	-	2	2	0.23
	Nymphalidae	<i>Aglais oi</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
			Cashew	-	-	2	2	0.23
	Pieridae	<i>Appias paulina</i>	Mango tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
	Noctuidae	<i>Catocala nupta</i>	Cashew	-	-	1	1	0.11
	Nymphalidae	<i>Danaus chysippus</i>	Camel's foot tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
	Saturniidae	<i>Hemileuca maia</i>	Teak	-	1	-	1	0.11
	Nymphalidae	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	Common wild fig	-	-	2	2	0.23
	Lisiocampidae	<i>kunugia undans</i>	Tropical almond	-	-	1	1	0.11
	Pieridae	<i>Leptophobia aripa</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
	Pyralidae	<i>Plodia interpuctella</i>	Cashew	-	-	2	2	0.23
	Noctuidae	<i>Thyas honesta</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	5	5	0.57
		<i>Trichopulsia ni</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	1	-	1	0.11
			Mango tree	-	2	-	2	0.23
	Artiidae	<i>Utetheisa ornatix</i>	Mango tree	-	1	-	1	0.11
Lithobiomorpha	Lithobiidae	<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	2	-	2	0.23
Mantodea	Copteptyrigidae	<i>Brunneria borialis</i>	Cadaghi tree	3	-	-	3	0.34
			<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	2	-	-	2	0.23
			Mango tree	2	-	-	2	0.23
	Eremiaphilidae	<i>Iris oratoria</i>	Lemon	1	-	-	1	0.11
	Tettigonidae	<i>Phenoptera nana</i>	Christ thorn	2	-	-	2	0.23
	Eremiaphilidae	<i>Stagmomantis limbata</i>	Lemon	4	-	-	4	0.45
Neuroptera	Mymeleontidae	<i>Vella fallax</i>	Black olive	-	-	10	10	1.13
			Tower tree	-	-	3	3	0.34
Odonata	Coenagrionidae	<i>Amphigrion abbreviatum</i>	Mango tree	-	-	2	2	0.23
	Libellulidae	<i>Cratilia lineata</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	-	11	11	1.25
			Mango tree	-	-	13	13	1.47
			Common wild fig	-	-	4	4	0.45

		<i>Libellula lydia</i>	Malaina	-	-	1	1	0.11
	Coenagrionidae	<i>Pseudagrion pilidorsum</i>	Malaina	-	-	5	5	0.57
			Sickle bush	-	-	5	5	0.57
	Libellulidae	<i>Sympetrum infuscatum</i>	Lowveld fig	-	-	8	8	0.91
			Mango tree	-	-	5	5	0.57
Orthoptera	Gryllidae	<i>Acheta domesticus</i>	Flamboyant tree	-	7	-	7	0.79
	Acrididae	<i>Dissosterra carolina</i>	Mango tree	2	-	-	2	0.23
		<i>Gomphocerippus rufus</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	5	-	5	0.57
			Gulta perchia tree	4	-	-	4	0.45
		<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	Cat's claw	-	8	-	8	0.91
			Mango tree	-	4	-	4	0.45
	Tetrigidae	<i>Tetrigidae lateralis</i>	Cashew	-	7	-	7	0.79
Polydesmia	Trigomulidae	<i>Trigomulus corollinus</i>	Cadaghi tree	-	3	-	3	0.34
			<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	-	3	-	3	0.34
			Total	63	631	189	883	
			Percentage	7.13	71.46	21.41		100

BT=Beating, HP=Hand picking, SN=Sweep net

Table 2: Shannon-Wiener Diversity Index for Species of Arthropods on Economic Trees.

Economic Tree	Arthropod Species	Abundance	Pi X ln (Pi)
Cadaghi tree	<i>Brunneria boralis</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Thyas honesta</i>	5	0.0293
	<i>Steatoda grossa</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Trigomulus corollinus</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Componotus americanus</i>	10	0.05074
	<i>Leptophobia aripa</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Componotus pennsylvanicus</i>	14	0.06571
	<i>Thyreodon articolor</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Donacia semicuprea</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	5	0.0293
Mango tree	<i>Ornidia obesa</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	70	0.20095
	<i>Chrysomya megacephala</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Aglais oi</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Cratilia lineata</i>	11	0.05463
	<i>Brunneria boralis</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Delta conoideum</i>	6	0.03392
	<i>Steatoda grossa</i>	4	0.02445
	<i>Dissosterra carolina</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Bibio marci</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Utetheisa ornatrix (larva)</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Ornidia obesa</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Amphigrion abbreviatum</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	12	0.05842
	<i>Metelina mengei</i>	6	0.03392
	<i>Reticulitermes flavipes</i>	9	0.04674
	<i>Rhyrchophorus crucutatus</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	4	0.02445
	<i>Trichopulsia ni (larva)</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Trachymela sloani</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Cratilia lineata</i>	13	0.06211
	<i>Chrysomya megacephala</i>	5	0.0293

	<i>Aphrophora alni</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Sympetrum infuscatum</i>	5	0.0293
	<i>Appias paulina</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Euphoria kernii</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Linopithemi humile</i>	10	0.05074
	<i>Oecophylla smaragdina</i>	31	0.11759
	<i>Boisea trivittata</i>	25	0.10092
	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Trombidium holosericeum</i>	25	0.10092
	<i>Dioceria atricapilla</i>	1	0.00768
Camel's foot tree	<i>Boisea trivitatta</i>	15	0.06923
	<i>Danaus chysippus</i>	3	0.01931
Flamboyant tree	<i>Musca domestica</i>	7	0.03835
	<i>Acheta domesticus</i>	7	0.03835
	<i>Odontota dorsalis</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	24	0.09799
Black plum tree	<i>Delta conoideum</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Chironomus plumosus</i>	7	0.03835
Common wild fig	<i>Cratilla lineata</i>	4	0.02445
	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	2	0.01379
Christ thorn	<i>Phenoptera nana</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Steatoda grossa</i>	3	0.01931
Teak	<i>Steatoda grossa</i>	16	0.07267
	<i>Hemileuca maia</i>	1	0.00768
Malaina	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	57	0.17689
	<i>Libellula lydia</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Pseudagrion pilidorsum</i>	5	0.0293
Black olive	<i>Anthrax anthrax</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Vella fallax</i>	10	0.05074
	<i>Componotus floridanus</i>	3	0.01931
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>Boisea trivittata</i>	15	0.06923
	<i>Trombidum holosericeum</i>	20	0.08579
	<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Metellina mengei</i>	4	0.02445
	<i>Gomphocerippus rufus</i>	5	0.0293
	<i>Trigomulus corollinus</i>	3	0.01931

	<i>Zootermopsis angusticollis</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	23	0.09502
	<i>Trichopulsia ni</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Brunneria boralis</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Ornidia obesa</i>	2	0.01379
Tropical almond	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	10	0.05074
	<i>kunugia undans</i>	1	0.00768
African peach	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	21	0.08892
Common cabbage	<i>Boisea trivittata</i>	10	0.05074
Lowveld fig	<i>Sympetrum infuscatum</i>	8	0.04262
	<i>Delta conideum</i>	18	0.07936
Pine tree	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	35	0.12795
Cashew	<i>Tettigidae lateralis</i>	7	0.03835
	<i>Aglais oi</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Plodia interpunctella</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Catocala nupta</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Odontopus calceatus</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Campylenchia latipes</i>	2	0.01379
Guava tree	<i>Heteropoda venatoria</i>	3	0.01931
	<i>Aphrophora alni</i>	3	0.01931
Cat's claw	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	8	0.04262
	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	21	0.08892
Saswood	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	9	0.04674
	<i>Comptonotus floridanus</i>	7	0.03835
	<i>Efferia austans</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	50	0.16259
Sickle bush	<i>Caprona ransonnettii</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Pseudogryllon pilidorsum</i>	5	0.0293
Tower tree	<i>Xysticus cristatus</i>	2	0.01379
	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Vella fallax</i>	3	0.01931
Albizia tree	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	23	0.09502
	<i>Carpocoris fuscipinus</i>	6	0.03392
Jatropha	<i>Acrotaphus wiltii</i>	3	0.01931
Gulta perchia tree	<i>Gomphocerippus rufus</i>	4	0.02445
	<i>Odontopus calceatus</i>	1	0.00768
African locust beans	<i>Delta conoideum</i>	2	0.01379
Shorea tree	<i>Monomorium minimum</i>	25	0.10092
	<i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	3	0.01931
Lemon	<i>Reticulitermes flavipes</i>	8	0.04262
	<i>Onthophagus taurus</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Stagmomantis limbata</i>	4	0.02445
	<i>Iris oratoria</i>	1	0.00768
	<i>Total</i>	883	4.07535

Discussion

The present study revealed a diverse range of arthropods on economic trees at the Federal School of Forestry, with 883 individuals representing 69 species, 51 families, 13 orders and 4 classes. This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the importance of trees in supporting arthropod diversity¹³. The dominance of Hymenoptera (54.50%) and Formicidae (50.50%) in this study is consistent with other studies that have reported the abundance of these groups in tropical ecosystems¹⁴. The high abundance of *Monomorium minimum*

(42.00%) is also consistent with previous studies that have reported the dominance of this species in certain ecosystems¹⁵. The significant difference in arthropod abundance across different economic trees suggests that tree species play a crucial role in shaping arthropod communities. This finding is supported by previous studies that have highlighted the importance of tree species in influencing arthropod diversity¹⁶. The mango tree was the most heavily infested tree species, harboring 20.50% of the total arthropod individuals. This finding is consistent with previous studies that have reported the susceptibility of mango trees to arthropod pests¹⁷.

The Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index (H') of 4.07535 indicates a high level of arthropod diversity in the study area. This finding is consistent with previous studies that have reported high arthropod diversity in tropical ecosystems^{13,16}. The significant difference in arthropod diversity across the study area suggests that environmental factors, such as tree species and habitat structure, play a crucial role in shaping arthropod communities¹. The high diversity index of *Monomorium minimum* on Cadaghi trees (0.20095) is consistent with previous studies that have reported the dominance of this species in certain ecosystems¹⁵. The widespread distribution of *Monomorium minimum* across 12 out of 28 economic tree species surveyed in this study suggests that this species is highly adaptable and able to thrive in a variety of environments. In contrast, the low diversity index of 13 species (0.00768 each) suggests that these species may be more specialized or have narrower habitat requirements¹⁸. Further research is needed to understand the ecological factors that contribute to the low diversity index of these species.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This study highlights the importance of economic trees in supporting arthropod diversity and the role of tree species in shaping arthropod communities. The findings of this study have implications for the management of economic trees and the conservation of arthropod diversity.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that economic trees be conserved and managed sustainably to maintain their ecological integrity and support biodiversity. Additionally, further research should be conducted to explore the specific relationships between arthropod species and economic trees and to identify strategies for promoting arthropod diversity and ecosystem services in agroforestry systems.

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