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Data Article

Dataset on the regulation of banana weevil abundance and corm damage associated with plant richness and the ground-dwelling arthropods' food web

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ABSTRACT

The data presented in this article are related to the research article entitled "Plant richness enhances banana weevil regulation in a tropical agroecosystem by affecting a multitrophic food web" [1]. It provides information about plant species richness, weevil corm damage and the abundance of different arthropod groups, including the banana weevil and its potential natural enemies and alternative preys.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	<i>Biology</i>
More specific subject area	<i>Conservation biological control</i>
Type of data	<i>Table, R script, graph</i>
How data was acquired	<i>Field survey</i>
Data format	<i>Raw, filtered and analyzed</i>
Experimental factors	<i>Abundance and damage of banana weevil <i>Cosmopolites sordidus</i>, abundance of arthropod trophic groups (potential natural enemies and alternative preys of <i>Cosmopolites sordidus</i>) and plant species richness</i>
Experimental features	<i>Vegetation and ground-dwelling arthropod food web were monitored in plots in farmer fields across a gradient of plant richness.</i>
Data source location	<i>Reserve of Talamanca (9°00'– 9°50' N, 82°35' – 83°05' W) in Costa Rica</i>
Data accessibility	<i>Data is available with the article</i>

Value of the data

- The data is valuable for other researchers working on this pest or in similar scientific field because it offers them the opportunity to compare with their own datasets and/or to independently verify or extend statistical analyses.
- This data is a contribution to the effort of the scientific community to quantify ecosystem services and in particular ecosystem services in agroecosystems associated with plant diversification.
- The data is valuable as it comes from an original experimental design using an existing plant richness gradient to study the continuous relationship between plant richness and response variable related to pest regulation service.
- This data does not focus solely on the effect of plant richness on abundance or damage of the pest, but also on potential alternative preys or predators of the pest.

1. Data

The dataset presented in this article, in [Table 1](#), comes from a fieldwork conducted in banana-based farmers' fields in the Reserve of Talamanca in Costa Rica (9°00'–9°50' N, 82°35'–83°05' W) between July 2014 and January 2016. Each observation corresponds to a 10 m radius circular plot located in a field and containing a banana phytometer. Data provides information about plant species richness, corm damage measured on the phytometer, and abundances of several groups of ground-dwelling arthropods, including predators, omnivorous ants, non-ant omnivores, herbivores, detritivores and the banana pest *Cosmopolites sordidus*. In addition to the dataset, we present the outputs of statistical models that quantify the effect of total plant species richness on the abundance of each arthropod group and on corm damage. [Fig. 1](#) displays the services or disservices associated with pest regulation provided by plant species richness, expressing the size of the effect of total plant richness on each variable.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

The experimental design is described in details in [\[1\]](#). Below, we developed the calculation of total plant species richness and the implementation of the statistical models used to quantitatively estimate the effect of total plant species richness on arthropod groups' abundance and corm damage.

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