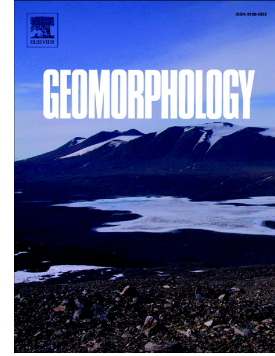


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Physical heterogeneity and aquatic community function in river networks: A case study from the Kanawha River Basin, USA

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Physical heterogeneity and aquatic community function in river networks: A case study
from the Kanawha River Basin, USA.

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Abstract

The geomorphological character of a river network provides the template upon which evolution acts to create unique biological communities. Deciphering commonly observed patterns and processes within riverine landscapes resulting from the interplay between physical and biological components is a central tenet for the interdisciplinary field of river science. Relationships between the physical heterogeneity and food web character of functional process zones (FPZs) -- large tracts of river with a similar geomorphic character -- in the Kanawha River (West Virginia, USA) are examined in this study. Food web character was measured as food chain length (FCL), which reflects ecological community structure and ecosystem function. Our results show that the same basal resources were present throughout

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