



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Environment & Ecology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEE_49594
Title of the Manuscript:	Influence of coral-reef complexity on species richness and the hierarchical structuration of species abundances in reef fish communities: a case study in south-east Brazil
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>INTRODUCTION The following issues (below), which form a significant and integral part of the results and discussion sections, should also be introduced in the Introduction section. The current shape of the Introduction section is: (1) not in line with the Results and Discussion sections, (2) insufficient in length for a full research paper (5-6 paragraphs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxonomic dissimilarity between the two fish communities • Testing for the type of process involved in the structuring of species abundances <p>Beyond the rough abundance unevenness, the genuine intensity of the hierarchical structuring process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect of habitat complexity on the true species richness and the taxonomic composition of associated fish communities • Type of process involved in the structuring of species abundances • Effect of coral habitat complexity on the mean competitive intensity and the species abundance unevenness within associated fish community <p>MATERIALS AND METHODS The Numerical Extrapolation procedure and its exploitation - Belongs in Introduction (relocated).</p> <p>RESULTS Report on Figures 4 (<i>Chaetodon striatus</i> Linnaeus 1758, common to both fish communities), Figure 5 (<i>Dactylopterus volitans</i> (Linnaeus 1758), common to both fish communities) and Figure 6 (<i>Pomacanthus paru</i> (Bloch 1787), recorded from Mae community only) below to justify their inclusion.</p> <p>DISCUSSION "It has been argued [5, 16] that fish assemblages associated to tropical coral reefs exhibit close positive relationships with the degree of habitat complexity [5, 16], ... are provided in Tables 1 & and 2 and Figures 1 & and 2." – This look like introduction as it does not directly discuss the obtained results – relocate to Introduction section (or remove?) – Immediately start discussion obtained results – all else goes to relevant sections (Introduction or methodology).</p>	<p>At first, many thanks for the very detailed review of the manuscript.</p> <p>I take full account of most of your suggestions and revised the manuscript accordingly: corresponding corrections are underlined in yellow in the revised version.</p> <p>As for the points that I cannot follow:</p> <p>1) the sub-section regarding the "numerical extrapolation procedure" is in my opinion duly placed, <i>as such</i>, in the "Methods" section (rather than in "Introduction" which is not intended to detail clearly methodological aspects).</p> <p>2) the three photographic illustrations could, indeed, be referenced as Figures, as suggested; yet, this would not be in accordance with the constant practice in the series of my previous articles in this Journal.</p>
Minor REVISION comments	Additional minor grammar items indicated in the accompanied annotated manuscript.	
Optional/General comments	The paper is excessively populated with sources, where in most cases one source would suffice. Authors are urged to look, where appropriate, to reduce the excessive number of sources cited.	3) reducing the number of references: my approach in this regard is to select references that are both non-redundant and relevant to the subject matter, bearing in mind that a reasonably but sufficiently rich reference list can be a precious tool that I find personally very useful and that I, therefore, believe to be as useful to readers interested in the subject (s) that are dealt with in the article concerned.

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	