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## Is the evaluation of isopods' diversity in an area dependent on the duration of sampling? (Crustacea, Isopoda, Oniscidea)

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The methodology of data collection, and more specifically the sampling period, is highly important in order to identify reliable diversity indicators among soil invertebrates. In general, samples collection takes place over a long period of time in order to assure an appropriate sample size for analysis. As a consequence, the procedure could be time consuming and costly in terms of materials and personnel involved. In this study, we investigated whether the abundance and species richness may be affected by seasonality (spring and/or autumn sampling versus throughout the year). Data were obtained following a standardized sampling method, continuously for twenty-four months in two protected areas of Sicily. Student's t-test, Mann-Whitney's test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test were used to compare mean values of the number of species and individuals collected during the two years with mean values of the observations during even months, during odd months, and during the period between March and October excluding July and August. Comparison between results obtained in the two protected areas separately were also performed. For each period, no statistically significant differences were observed in the mean number of individuals and species. Notably, in all cases, the sex ratio remained constant. Thus, the abundance and species richness would have been unaffected even if the sampling would have been conducted only in even or odd months or just in the above mentioned period only one year.

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