

RESULTS FROM SIERRA DE BAHORUCO

Out of the 11 bryophyte species assessed, we found 28 morphospecies of microcrustaceans: 13 Copepoda (5 harpacticoids and 8 cyclopoids), 6 Anomopoda (all chydorid cladocerans) and 9 Ostracoda (2 of the family Candonidae, 2 Cypridopsidae and 5 Limnocytheridae).

The most common microcrustaceans were limnocytherid ostracods of the genus *Elpidium* (2 undescribed species) and harpacticoids. Ostracods were the only microcrustacean group occurring in at least three bryophyte species differing in canopy structure (LR= low rugosity; MR= medium rugosity; HR= high rugosity). There was no significant differences in ostracod density among bryophytes with different canopy structures ($F= 1.10$, $p=0.406$).

Most microcrustacean species had low densities (less than 1 or 2 individuals per 50 cm^2 of substrate). Nearly one-third of the sampling units (50 cm^2) harbored no microcrustaceans. The highest number of individuals and species attained within a single sampling unit was 11 and 6, respectively, for *Monoclea* (low rugosity)).

Composition and cumulative species richness and abundance of microcrustaceans differed among plant species; however, these metrics were neither significantly correlated nor regressed with canopy structure. The highest cumulative density was seen in *Monoclea* (29 individuals in 300 cm^2) (LR); whereas the lowest cumulative density (2 individuals/ 300 cm^2) was found in *Leucobryum*, which also had low roughness. The highest cumulative species richness was found in *Monoclea* (LR), *Thuidium* (HR) and *Herbertus* (MR) with 29, 18 and 16 species, respectively. The lowest cumulative richness was recorded for *Leucobryum* (LR) and *Zelometeorium* (MR) (2 and 3 species, respectively).