

ABSTRACT

Functional feeding groups (FFGs) classification of aquatic macro invertebrates is an important tool that enhances the knowledge of trophic dynamics in tropical streams by assigning the benthic community into trophic guilds. The current study aimed at determining the relative abundance, distribution and the factors influencing macro invertebrate functional feeding groups along Gura River. Macro invertebrates were collected between November and December 2018 in seven sites along the Gura River from an altitude of 2977 to 1547 metres above sea level (m. a.s.l.). At the same time, selected physical chemical variables were measured in situ at every site. Dissolved oxygen concentration, water temperature, electrical conductivity, pH and turbidity had a significant difference among the sites ($p < 0.05$). Nitrates and phosphate had a significant difference among sampled sites ($p < 0.05$) except NO₂-N (one-way ANOVA, $F(6,14) = 2$, $p = 0.085$). A total of 4016 macro invertebrate specimens were collected belonging to 9 orders and 28 families and assigned into 5 respective FFGs. Overall, scrapers, dominated by Heptageniidae (*Afronurus*) had the highest relative proportion (42%) of FFGs in all the sites. Collector-filters percentage proportion was second highest with a relative proportion of (27%). Collector-gatherers FFG had a percentage proportion of (22%) from all the study sites. Shredders and predators were the least represented functional feeding groups with proportions of 6% and 3% respectively. **Keywords:** Functional feeding groups (FFGs), Gura, Scrapers, Shredders, Predators