Original

The Flora and Fauna in Eastern Nile Locality at Khartoum State

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Abstract:

The present study is the pioneer that document the biodiversity of the Eastern Nile Locality, Khartoum State, Sudan including five range enclosures. The main objective of the present study is to document the natural vegetation status and floristic, faunal composition in five rangeland enclosures namely Abozaid ($15^{\circ} 46' 928'', 32^{\circ}88'549''$) Wadtbar ($15^{\circ} 42' 846'', 33^{\circ}06'552''$), Elhedabab ($15^{\circ} 42' 893'', 33^{\circ}002' 36''$), Salamat Wad Niel ($15^{\circ} 652' 680'', 33^{\circ}25' 928''$) and Seyal Elfaki Saad ($15^{\circ} 54' 976'', 33^{\circ}20' 724''$) in Eastern Nile Locality, Khartoum State, and to provide a recent species list. The quantitative assessment of the flora in the five enclosures was determined by measurement of density, abundance, frequency, relative density, relative abundance, relative frequency and importance value index. On each of the five enclosures 9 plots were selected and the measurements were taken for 3 consecutive years. Nineteen plants were encountered during the survey. The results revealed that the herbaceous cover is dominated by *Aristida adscensionis* in four of the five studied enclosures while in Elhedabab enclosure *Schoenefeldia gracilis* is the most dominant species.

Standard collection and identification methods were used for both plants and animals. During the study period, a total of 33 plant species, representing 27 genera from 14 families, in 11 orders were recorded. Poaceae had the highest contribution; followed by Fabaceae and Zygophyllaceae. The flora comprises a variety of life-forms; most are ISSN: 2948-300X (print) 2948-3018 (0nline) theophytes. The majority of the plant species have important ethnobotanical uses. From the collected plant 24 species are fodders grazed or browsed by wild animals and domestic livestock and 24 species are used for medicinal purposes. Almost all plant parts are economically used. The wild faunal survey results indicated the presence of 16 species two of which are reptiles, belonging to 1 order falling within 2 families. The avifauna consisted of nine species, falling in seven families within 4 orders. While the observed mammals were 5 species, falling in 5 families. Owing to the results produced by the present study, which represents the base for further ecological studies, there is an urgent need for monitoring and conserving the biodiversity in the Eastern Nile Locality.

Key words: Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity, Life forms, Economic uses.

Introduction

The U.N. Convention on Biological defines Diversity (CBD) (2020) Biodiversity as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part". According to Karmebäck et al., (2015) and Wairore et al., (2015) establishment of enclosures as a tool that leads management to agricultural diversification and ensure food security. Using of enclosures in the African drylands is becoming an effective management tool (Greiner, 2016 and Lovschal et al., 2017).

More than 80 percent of Sudan consists of arid or semiarid areas. IPCC (2014) projected that the Horn of Africa will be among the regions to be most negatively affected by climate change.

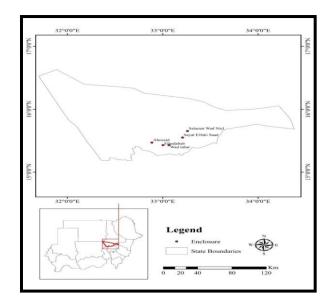
The Eastern Nile Locality lies in the semi-desert ecological zone which is characterized by low and erratic rainfall (Harrison and Jackson, 1958). Vegetation cover of this zone comprises annual and perennial grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees. The floral composition of the Eastern Nile Locality has not been recently investigated. A general survey of the vegetation of Khartoum province had been represented by Obeid and Mahmoud (1969) and Mahmoud and Obeid (1971). Recently Abdalla and El Ghazali (2010) studied the flora of Khartoum Nile banks; Hamad *et al.* (2020) reported the Flora of Tutti Island and Mahmoud *et al.*, (2022) study the flora of Um Dom Island.

No previous attempts have been carried out to document the wildlife species inhabiting this area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The Study area:

The Eastern Nile Locality is in the Eastern part of Khartoum State, 45 Kilometers north eastern Khartoum. The studied area is located between 15°42′ 846″ - 15° 652′ 680″ N and 33° 25′ 928″ - 32°88′ 549″ E. Five range enclosures has been established in this locality namely: Abozaid, Wadtabar, Elhedabab, Salmat Wad Niel and Seyal Elfaki Saad (Map 1).





Specimen collection and identification:

The collection procedure followed Bean (2016). Specimens were identified using the available literature (Andrews, 1950, 1952 and 1956; El Amin, 1990 and Braun et al., 1991). Recent literature was consulted for current plant names (World Flora Online (WFO). The list of families covered in this study was arranged according to the Angiosperm System of Classification of Flowering Plants (APG IV, 2016) while subfamilies, genera, and species were arranged alphabetically within the families. The identified specimens were confirmed with authenticated herbarium specimens in the Royal Botanical Garden Herbarium Kew, the United Kingdom (http://apps.kew.org/herbact/navigator.

ed.) and secondary resources including books and proceedings. Vernacular names given were compiled from local people and available literature. Ethnobotanical uses given were compiled from local people or retrieved from online bibliographic databases like Web of Science and Google Scholar, Useful Tropical Plants and PROTA4U Homepage, and secondary including resources books and proceedings; 13 use citations were recorded including 6 economic use categories and 7 used part categories. Due to its compelling simplicity, the life-form classification system of Raunkiær et al., (1934) was used.

The survey for wildlife was carried out by direct observations of the individuals and indirect method by signs observation, tracks and foot prints during the day and spotlight counts survey during the night to indicate the probability of occupancy (Cromsigt et al., 2009, MacKenzie, et al., 2006 and Kéry, et al., 2016). Capturing of small mammals and reptiles was carried out with cage traps. Spotlight CP 7150 with a power of 550,000 watts' halogen was used during the night survey and direct observation was used during the day. These were identified using Curlis et al. (2020), Leenders (2019) and Farallo et (2010), As for birds' al. direct observation method and Bisley Deluxe 10 X 50 binocular were used. Identification was carried out using Wenny et al. (2011) method.

Results and discussion:

The floral results are presented in Table 1 which includes a list of collected taxa and their life forms, economic uses and the parts used from each. A total of 33 plant species, belonging to 27 genera included within 14 families falling in 11 orders were recorded from the study area. The results include a varying range of species within different families. Poaceae is the largest family represented by 9 species; followed by Fabaceae 8 species. Zygophyllaceae is represented by 3 species and each of Malvaceae and Euphorbiaceae 2 species. Acanthaceae, Aizoaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Cucurbitaceae, Cyperaceae, Orbanchaceae. Solanaceae and Rubiaceae are monophyletic (Fig.1). This result can be considered as normal in a semi-desert environment. The families Poaceae and Fabaceae are usually widely distributed in any floristic study. Occurrence of Poaceae can be attributed to their economic uses, wide variety, ecological range of tolerance and to their efficient seed dispersal capability (Collentte, 1999 and Marjan and Manohar, 2014).

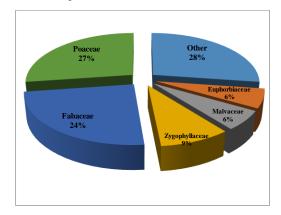
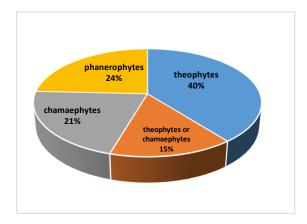


Fig (1): % of plant species within families

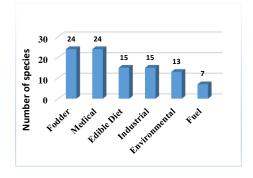


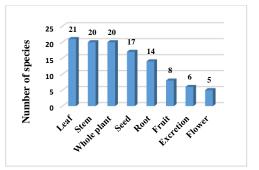
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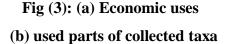
Fig (2): % of life forms within plant species.

The most common annual grasses are Aristida adscensionis and Schoenefeldia gracilis. The common forbs are Corchorus depressus and Fagonia indica, while the common shrubs and trees were Acacia tortilis subsp. spirocarpa, A. ehrenbergiana and A. mellifera; these findings agree with (Harrison and Jackson 1958).

The flora comprises different life-forms (Fig. 2); most are theophytes (40%). All plant species have important economic uses (Fig. 3a). The study area is considered as a natural range for the livestock. Twenty-four species are fodder plants, most are grazed and some are browsed by animals during the dry season. Seeds of Blepharis ciliaris (Fig. 4) a widely distributed fodder plant in most North African countries are brought to the locality during the broadcast program of the executive Range and Pasture Administration, Khartoum. Large trees, shrubs and grasses are utilized for building materials. Some plants are used for medicinal purposes; others are edible as human food, while Striga hermonthica parasitized the cultivated areas. All plant parts are being used; the use of leaves was predominant followed by stem, whole plant, seeds, root, fruits, excretions and flowers (Fig. 3b).







The faunal survey resulted in identification of 16 species (Table 2). The results revealed the presence of two species of reptiles belonging to 2 families within 1 order. The finding of this study was in agreement with (Corkill, 1935) who reported that Rhagerhis moilensis have been secured from Western, Northern and Khartoum States. Jawad (2021) stated the warm and dry climate is a suitable habitat for reptiles and he reported that Stenodactylus sthenodactylus inhabits semi desert regions.

The avian fauna results revealed the presence of nine species of birds' species falling into 7 families within 4 orders, seven of which are recorded in Sudan (Nikolaus, 1987). Turdoides fulva is resident and common with breeding records in Sudan. Corvus rhipidurus is residential and a local migrant; it inhabits local rocky hills and mountains. Corvus albus is a resident and a local migrant. Streptopelia roseogrisea is resident and common, reported to breed in Sudan. Oena capensis it is very common, local and African migrant species. Cursorius cursor is a rare palaearctic migrant. Ptilopsis lecucotis (Fig. 5) breeds in Sudan and prefers dry acacia savanna open woodland. Eremopterix and verticalis and Lanius meridionalis were not reported by Nikolaus (1987). Also, the result is compatible with Del Hoyo et al. (2007) who mentioned that Passeriformes inhabits a wide diversity

of habitats. *Corvus albus* was recorded in Jabel El Dayer National Park, North Kordofan State (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2021).

From the 224 species and sub-species of mammals other than bats reported by Setzer (1965) in the Sudan the survey revealed the presence of five species within 5 families in 3 orders. Vulpes pallida (Fig. 6) encountered in this survey inhabits sandy and stony deserts and semi-desert areas, Saharan-Sahel in northern Africa; it may also occur near human habitation and cultivated fields where food is more available than natural habitat Sillero-Zubiri et al., (2016). Jaculus jaculus is endemic to North Africa, northeastern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and southwestern Asia it inhabits arid environments desert and semi desert areas (Ben-Faleh et al., 2010 and Boraty'nski et al., 2014).



Fig (4): Blepharis ciliaris

Fig (5): *Ptilopsis lecucotis* Fig (6): *Vulpes*

pallida

Table (1): Floral Composition of the Eastern Nile Locality, Sudan.

Taxa	Life	Use	es					Used part								
	form	F	Е	Μ	F	Ι	Е		R		L	F	F	S	E	
		d			u		n			t		1		e	х	
I. Monocots																
1/ Poales																
i <u>Cyperaceae</u>																
1.Cyperus rotundus L.	Ch	+	+	+		+		+	+	+	+					
ii <u>Poaceae</u>																
subf.: Aristidoideae																
2. Aristida adscensionis L.	Th/	+					+	+	+	+	+					
	Ch															
subf.: Chloridoideae																
<i>3. Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Willd.	Th	+	+	+				+		+	+			+		
4. Eragrostis cilianensis (All.) Janch.	Th	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+			+		
5. E. tremula Hochst. Ex Steud.	Th/	+	+			+		+		+				+		
6. Schoenefeldia gracilis Kunth.	Ch	+				+		+		+						
	Th															
subf.: Panicoideae																
7. Brachiaria deflexa (Schumach.) C. E.	Th	+	+					+		+	+			+		
Hubb. ex Robyns	Th	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	+			+		
8. Cenchrus biflorus Roxb.	Th/	+		+			+	+		+	+					
9. C. ciliaris L.	Ch	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+			+		
10. Panicum turgidum Forssk.	Ch															
II.																
Eudicots/Superrosids/Rosids/Fabids																
2/ Zygophllales Link																
iii Zygophllaceae R.Br.Subf.	Ph	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	
Tribuloideae	Th		+	+				+					+	+		
11.Balanites aegyptiaca (L.) Delile																
12. Tribulus terrestris L.																
subf.: Zygophylloideae																
13.Fagonia indica Burm. f.	Th/C	+		+				+		+	+					
	h															

3/ Order: Fabales															
iv Fabaceae															
subf.: Caesalpinoideae															
14. Senna alexandrina Mill.	Ph			+		+	+				+			+	
15. S. occidentalis (L.) Link	Ch			+					+		+	+		+	
subf.: Mimosoideae															
16. Acacia ehrenbergiana Hayne	Ph	+		+	+		+				+				
17. Senegalia mellifera (M.Vahl) Benth.	Ph	+	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		+		+
18. Vachella tortilis subsp. spirocarpa	Ph	+	+	+	+	+	+			+	+	+			+
(Hochst ex A. Rich.) Brenan						·									·
subf.: Papilionoideae															
19. Crotalaria senegalensis (Pers.)	Th	+													
Bacle ex DC.	Th	+													
20. Indigofera hochstetteri Baker	Ph	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+
21. Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr.	1 11	т	T	т	т	T	т		т	т	т	т		т	Ŧ
4/ Order: Cucurbitales															
v Cucurbitaceae subf.: Cucurbitoideae															
	Th/C														
22. Citrullus colocynthis (L.) Schrad	. –			+				+	+	+	+		+	+	+
5/Orden Malrichialas	h														
5/ Order: Malpighiales															
vi Euphorbiaceae															
subf.: Acalyphoideae	DI														
23. Chrozophora plicata (Vahl) A. Juss.	Ph	+		+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	
ex Spreng.						-									
subf.: Euphorbioideae	T 1														
24. Euphorbia prostrata Aiton	Th	+		+				+	+	+	+				
Eudicots/Superrosids/Rosids/ Malvids															
6/ Order: Malvales															
vii Malvaceae															
subf.: Grewioideae	a														
25. Corchorus depressus (L.) Stocks	Ch			+				+	+				+	+	
26. C. tridens L.	Th	+	+	+		+		+		+	+			+	
Clade: Eudicots/Core eudicots															
7/ Order: Caryophyllales															
viii Aizoaceae subf.: Sesuvioideae															
27. Trianthema triquetra Rottler&Willd.	Th			+				+							
Eudicots/Superastrids/Asterids/Lamii															
ds															
8/ Order: Gentianales															
ix Rubiaceae subf.: Rubioideae	Th	+	+	+					+						
28. Oldenlandia corymbosa var.															
caespitosa (Benth.) Verdc.															
x Apocynaceae						1									
subf.: Asclepiadoideae															
29. Calotropis procera (Aiton)	Ph	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
W.T.Aiton															
	I	1	I	I	1			1				I			

9/ Order: Solanales										
xi Solanaceae subf.: Solanoideae										
30. Solanum dubium Dunal.	Ch		+	+				+	+	
10/ Order: Lamiales										
xii Orbanchaceae										
31. Striga hermonthica (Delile) Benth.	Th			+	+					
xiii Acanthaceae										
32. Blepharis ciliaris (L.) B. L. Burtt	Ch	+	+			+				
Clade:										
Eudicots/Asterids/campanulids (euast										
erids II) 11/ Order: Asterales										
ivx Asteraceae	Ch		+		+					
33. Pulicaria undulata (L.) C.A. Mey.										

Life forms: Ph = Phanerophyte, Th= Theophytes, Ch= Chamaephyte. Economic Uses:Fd = Fodder, E=Edible, M= Medicinal, Fu = Fuel, I= Industrial, En= Environmental. Part Used: W= Whole plant, St = Stem, L= Leaves, F= Fruits, Se= Seeds, Ex = Execretions

Animal	Order	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
Reptile	Squamata	Colubri	Rhagerhis moilensis Reuss	False cobra
S		dae		
		Gekkoni	Stenodactylus	Elegant gecko
		dae	Sthenodactylus Lichtenstein.	
Birds	Charadriif	Glareoli	Cursorius cursor Latham.	Cream-coloured courser
	ormes	dae		
	Columbifo	Columbi	Streptopelia roseogrisea	African collared (Rose-
	rmes	dae	Sundevall.	Grey) Dove
			Oena capensis Linnaeus	Namaqua Dove
	Passerifor	Alaudid	Eremopterix verticalis	Grey backed sparrow
	mes	ae	Smith.	lark
		Corvida	Corvus albus Statius Muller	Pied Crow
		е	C. rhipidurus Hartert	Fan- Tailed Raven
		Laniida	Lanius meridionalis	Southern grey shrike
		e	Temminck	
		Timaliid	Turdoides fulva	Fulvous babbler
		ae	Desfontaines	
	Strigiform	Strigida	Ptilopsis lecucotis	Northern white-faced
	es	e	Temminck	scops- owl
Mamm	Carnivora	Canidae	Vulpes pallida Cretzschmar	Sand fox
als		Felidae	Felis sp.	Wild cat
	Lagomorp	Leporid	Lepus sp.	Hare
	ha	ae		
	Rodentia	Dipodid	Jaculus Jaculus Linnaeus	Desert Jerboas
		ae		
		Gerbilli	Gerbillus sp.	Jerbel
		nae		

Table (2): Fauna of Eastern Nile Locality

Conclusion:

Most of the plant species of the study area have important economic uses. The area is considered as an important source for animal wellbeing, 22 species are fodder plants; most herbaceous are grazed and woody plants are browsed by animals during the dry season. Large trees and shrubs are utilized for timber. Some plants are used for medicinal purposes; others are edible as human food; while *Striga hermonthica* parasitized the cultivated areas.

The herbaceous cover is dominated by *Aristida adscensionis* which spread in all enclosures except in Elhedabab which is dominated by *Schoenefeldia gracilis* followed by *Aristida* ISSN: 2948-300X (print) 2948-3018 (Online) *adscensionis.* Acacia tortilis subsp. spirocarpa is the only woody plant present in all enclosures except Wad Tbar.

Thirty-three plant species were recorded from the study area. Poaceae was the largest family; followed by Fabaceae and Zygophyllaceae. Most of the plant species of the study area have important economic uses. Twenty-two species are fodder plants. The faunal survey of the area resulted in the identification of 16 species; two of which are reptiles, 9 birds and 5 Mammals.

Recommendations:

- Establishment of more range enclosures. Broadcasting of palatable species like *Belpharis ciliaris* and *Pancium turgidum* should be continued to improve range condition.
- Establishment of fire lines should be continued to control wild fires.
- Comprehensive survey of wildlife resources in rangeland should be conducted seasonally.

Authors' contribution statement: Reem collected the plant and animal data; Reem and Alawia identified and classified the collected plant species and wrote the text; Reem and Elfatih collected the data identified and classified the encountered animal species.

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