

Lorenzo. The collected macroinvertebrates were counted and later on grouped according to their nutritional mode, in order to calculate the IMN index.

Out of 28 stations studied, 11 of these showed a trophic quality belonging in class I (highly diversified trophic web, healthy environment), 6 stations attained class II level (diversified trophic web, environment approaching stress), 6 belonged to class III (lowly diversified trophic web, stressed environment), 5 were classified in class IV (simplified trophic web, highly stressed environment) and 1 attained class V (highly simplified trophic web, strongly stressed environment). The IMN values ranged between 17 and 95, and variation at the lowest part of the range could be caused either by pollution or by another type of disturbances such as seasonality of the stream. When equilibrium among the different trophic groups that were present in these environments is attained, *i.e.* a situation that corresponds to high IMN index values, we observe a higher diversity of organisms, so as higher water quality, but when the trophic complexity is reduced, this corresponds to an increase of disturbances suffered by such environment.

Keywords: aquatic invertebrates, trophic index, water quality, IMN, IBMWP, Shannon, River Júcar, Albacete