



The macroinvertebrate intertidal community associated with the seagrass *Halodule wrightii* (Ascherson, 1868) in the Mussulo Lagoon, Angola

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The Mussulo Lagoon is located in the south of Luanda, Angola. It presents a wide variety of natural ecosystems like mangroves, seagrass beds and sand beaches. The Cassende shallow, inside the Mussulo Lagoon, has an extensive seagrass prairie, consisting mainly of *H. wrightii*, which was studied with the purpose of improving the knowledge on its associated animal community in the intertidal zone. The study was carried out in order to determine the composition, structure and dynamics of the respective macroinvertebrate community and to identify the environmental parameters responsible for the spatio-temporal variations detected in the community. A total of 163 *taxa* belonging to 10 phyla were found in the study area. Crustaceans, gastropods and polychaetes were the most abundant taxonomic groups. Spatial variability on this community seems to be related to the distance from shore, with *taxa* richness and diversity increasing towards subtidal areas. The community structure also showed important temporal variability related to cyclic and noncyclic events, which influence air temperature, relative humidity and rainfall.