1. Introduction

- >2 billion people in the world consume >1900 insect species
- In Africa, insects from the order Lepidoptera are the most popular for food
- >10 insect species consumed in Kenya, including saturniids.

2. Importance to the field

- >7% of Kenyans are food insecure with 0.3 million children malnourished
- Insects are rich in proteins, fats and minerals with low environmental impact
- Scanty information on the extent of consumption, perception and knowledge on edible saturniids in Kenya.

3. Aim

To understand community perceptions, knowledge and consumption of saturniids in Kenya.

4. Methodology

- Survey done in 14 Kenyan counties; Homabay, Siaya, Kakamega, Vihiga, Trans-Nzoia, Kiifi, Kwale, Machakos, Kitui, Nyeri, Meru, Taita, Makueni, and Laikipia
- Semi-structured questionnaires were used
- Data were analysed quantitatively

5. Results and discussion

Participants: 161; age: 18–85 yrs; gender: 65 male, 96 female

Saturniid species present in the areas surveyed and consumed in Kiliifi were G. zambesina, B. alcinoe and C. forda.

6. Conclusion and recommendations

- While saturniids offer a great source of nutrients, the study showed that the main motivation for respondents to rear saturniids was to generate income
- Awareness on the nutritional benefits of consuming saturniids is required
- Feasibility of mass rearing and opportunities for trade are critical to mainstream saturniids among the edible insects in Kenya.

7. References

2. FAO, Rome, Italy.

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