Title: "TREE DIVERSITY ASSESSMENT IN SITIO DICASALARIN, BARANGAY ZABALI, BALER, AURORA, PHILIPPINES"

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Abstract:

Assessing biodiversity is a vital measure in order to generate efficient forest management plans through baseline information about the profile of the area in terms of diversity. Tree diversity is a crucial parameter to be assessed given that trees are considered as the major component of a forest. The study aims to assess the diversity level of trees in Sitio Dicasalarin, Barangay Zabali, Baler, Aurora, Philippines which is a part of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, and its determining factors. A total of three transects with nine quadrats each were surveyed wherein the species present were listed together with their diameter at breast height (DBH). Diversity indices such as Shannon Index, Simpson Index and Evenness were computed using PASTv3.14. Importance values were also computed to know the most important species based on dominance, frequency and density. To be able to determine the ecological value of the area, endemism, distribution, and conservation status of the identified tree species were determined. A total of 2239 individuals from 139 morpho-species, 87 genera and 46 families were recorded in the study site. The study area can be considered highly important having 48 Philippine Endemic species, 35 new species distribution record in Aurora province, 5 new species distribution record in Luzon, and 29 threatened species.