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LEAF SIZE CLASSES OF TREE SPECIES IN THE FORESTS OVER LIMESTONE OF SAMAR ISLAND NATURAL PARK, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT – Leaf size is one of the plant functional traits that can explain ecosystem function. This study identified the leaf size classes of trees in the forest over limestone ecosystems of Samar Island Natural Park, Samar Island, Philippines. One-sided surface leaf areas of voucher specimens from 18 sites in SINP were measured and data obtained were calculated and further classified based on the Raunkier-Webb classification. Most of the leaf sizes recorded were mesophyll (15 spp.), followed by notophyll (11 spp.), microphyll (4 spp.), and megaphyll (2 spp.). Moreover, leaf size classes are highly diverse among the sampling plots, a characteristic that can enhance the diversity of faunal populations dependent on plants for food and shelter. The dominance of large leaf sizes in SINP confirms the results of similar studies in forests over limestone.

Keywords: kaigangan, mesophyllous, notophyllous, Raunkier-Webb classification

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