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COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF THE FRUIT MORPHOLOGY OF SOME SPECIES OF PHILIPPINE RATTANS

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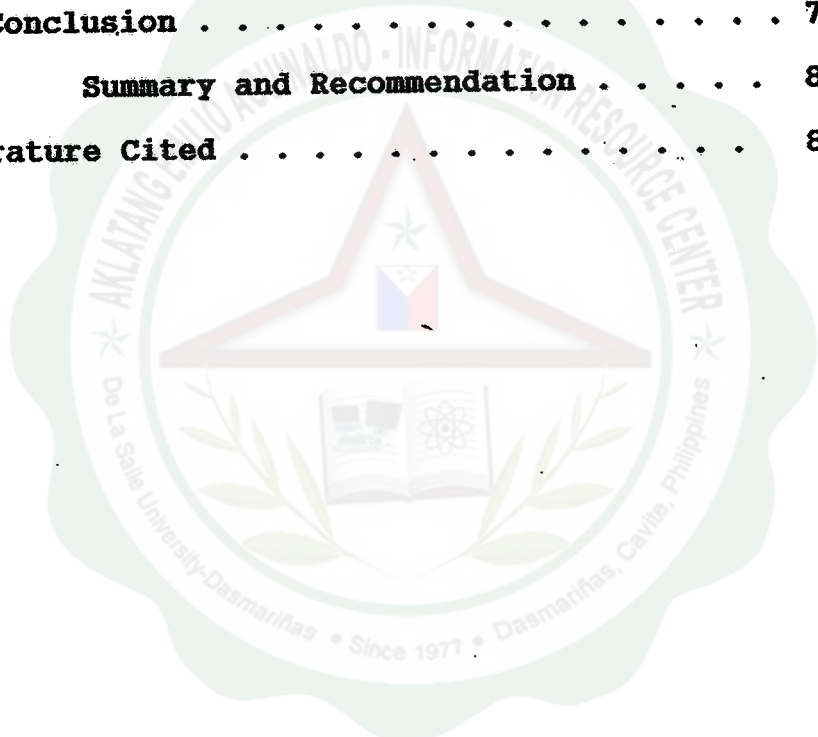
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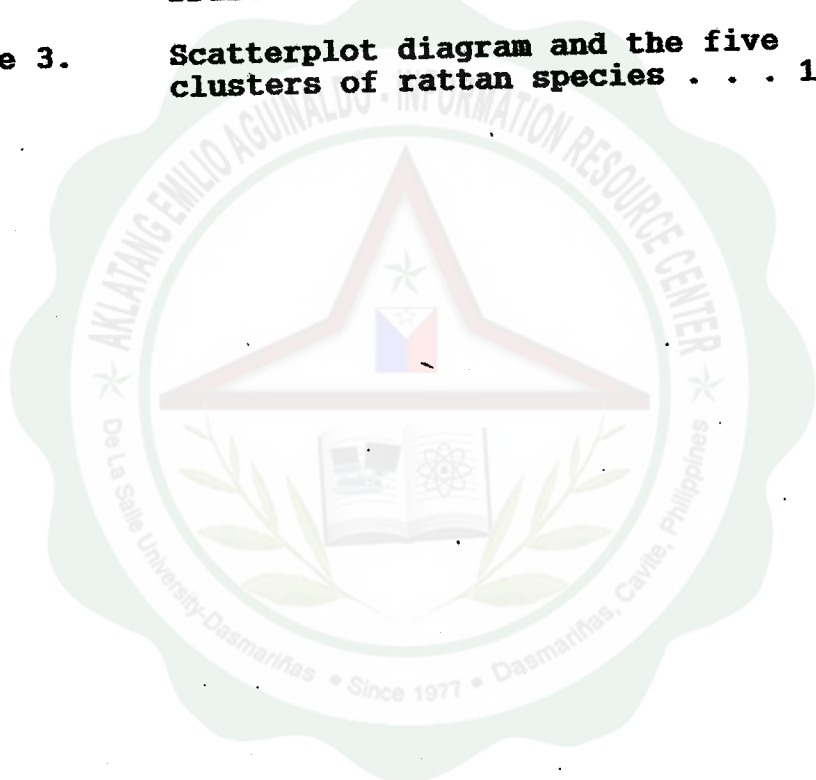
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ABSTRACT

The fruit morphology of twenty species and varieties of *Calamus*, seven species and varieties of *Daemonorops*, two species of *Korthalsia*, and a variety of *Plectocomia* were studied and described. The fruit characters described include fruit shape, color, length, width; scale color, shape, size, number of scales per vertical row and scales per lateral row; beak size and color; seed number, size, color, rumination, attachment; sepal number, size, and shape; and petal number, size, and shape. This study showed that fruit morphological variation was observed within species and genera; a single or a combination of characters are useful for the identification of some species or genera; *Calamus* and *Daemonorops* fruits are not easily distinguishable. The results of the study reinforce other taxonomic evidences in delineating taxa only at the genus level.

