


**A STUDY ON THE DIVERSITY OF EARTHWORMS
IN MTS. PALAYPALAY-MATAAS NA GULOD
NATIONAL PARK, CAVITE
PHILIPPINES**

**An Undergraduate Research
Presented to
The Biological Sciences Department
College Of Science
De La Salle University-Dasmariñas**

The seal of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas is a circular emblem with a scalloped border. It features a central shield with a blue field containing a white cross and a red field containing a white cross. Above the shield is a green star. The shield is set within a larger, light-colored triangle. The text "AKLATANG EMILIO AQUINO NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER" is written in a circular path around the top of the seal. At the bottom, it says "De La Salle University-Dasmariñas • Since 1977 • Dasmariñas, Cavite, Philippines".

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Of the Requirements for the Degree of
Bachelor of Science in Biology
With concentration to
Environmental Science**

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to identify and classify the earthworm species and to determine the distribution of earthworms found in Mts. Palaypalay-Mataas na Gulod National Park Ternate, Cavite. The research procedure involved collection of specimens by Quantitative Modified Hand-Sorting method in several areas within the site. Identification of the earthworms was done by the help of references such as the earthworm diagram. A dichotomous key was then created to clearly show the different unique characteristics of each group of earthworms by providing information on the distinct morphological features of each genus. Soil samples were also collected and tested from the respective sites in correlation with earthworm species richness and distribution. Four genera of earthworms were found in the area: *Apporectodea* sp., *Pleionogaster* sp., *Pheretima* sp., and *Amyntas* sp. *Apporectodea* sp. was the most abundant, which appeared seven times in all three sites with a total of 18 individuals. The genus *Pleionogaster* sp. had the second highest number with 5 individuals, which appeared twice in site 2 alone. *Pheretima* sp. appeared only once in site 2 and three times in site 3. *Amyntas* sp was only found in site 2 which is in mid elevation. The study found out that the most dominant genus found in the study site is *Apporectodea* sp. It shows that the National Park is already disturbed because among all earthworms found, *Apporectodea* sp. is the only one that tolerates altered and disturbed environments the most. In conclusion, the factors affecting earthworm distribution in the site are elevation, soil characteristics and climate.

