CORRELATION BETWEEN SPECIES RICHNESS AND ABUNDANCE OF HERBS AND EDAPHIC FACTORS ALONG THE ELEVATIONAL GRADIENT OF MT. GONZALES TAGAYTAY CITY, CAVITE

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ABSTRACT

This study determined species abundance and richness of herbs in Mt. Gonzales, Tagaytay City. The herb species found in three sites were identified, classified and verified with the help of National Museum of the Philippines. The most widely spread species in three sites and the most represented family of herbs in the area were determined. A total of 25 species of herbs belonging to 17 families and 24 genera were found in Mt. Gonzales Tagaytay City. The family Araceae and Asteraceae which occurred with three species each were the most abundant across the three sites. The physical and chemical properties of soil which included the pH, temperature, moisture and mineral contents in the three sites were examined. The results of the tests conducted on the soil were slightly varied. Spearman Rho Method was used to determine the correlation of these edaphic factors and the abundance and richness of herbs species along elevational gradient of Mt. Gonzales. Results revealed that there was no significant correlation existing between the edaphic factors and the species richness and abundance. The researchers recommend that the collection of herbs should be conducted in two seasons, dry and wet seasons respectively.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Appendices

List of Tables

List of Plates