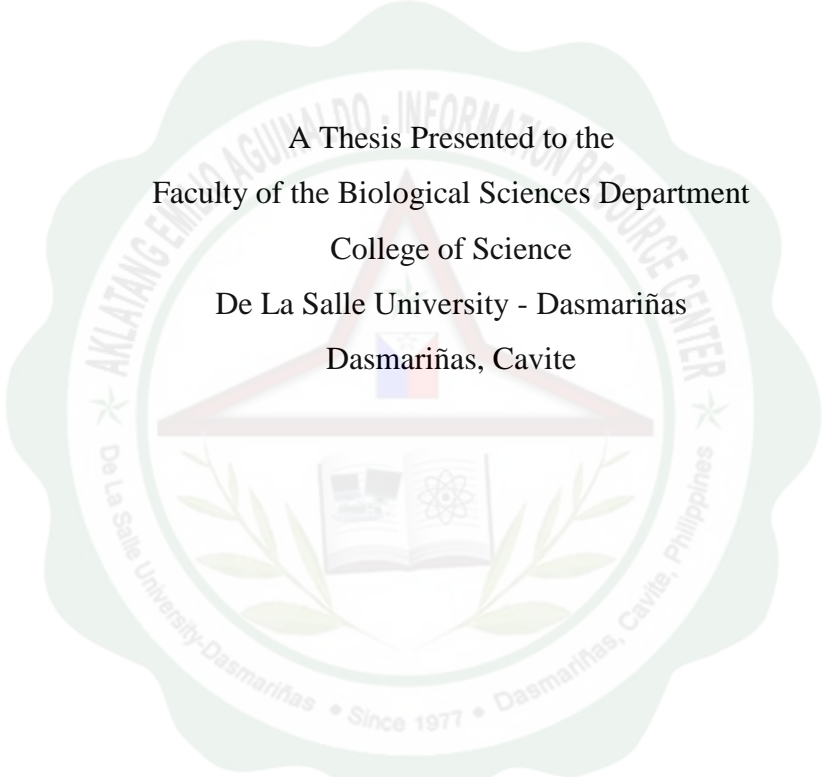




CORRELATION BETWEEN SEAGRASS ABUNDANCE AND PHYSICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARINE WATERS IN CALATAGAN, BATANGAS



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ABSTRACT

Seagrass are highly productive marine angiosperms that grow in marine waters. This study focused primarily on the selected physico-chemical parameters such as temperature, pH, N, P, light, salinity, DO, and TDS in the marine waters of Calatagan, Batangas. These factors were correlated to the abundance of seagrasses in the sampling stations. A total of 5 species of seagrass were recorded during the sampling: These species are *Cymodocea serrulata* and *Halodule pinifolia*, under Family *Cymodoceaceae* and *Thalassia hemprichii*, *Halophila minor*, *Enhalus acoroides* under Family *Hydrocharitaceae*. The species with the highest relative abundance and importance value is *Cymodocea serrulata* and among the sampling sites in Calatagan, Batangas, Station 1 has the greatest species diversity of seagrass (Shannon diversity Index). The physico-chemical parameters temperature, nitrite and phosphate has a perfect negative correlation with the abundance of seagrass and the physico-chemical parameters pH, nitrate, light, salinity, DO and TDS showed a perfect positive correlation with the abundance of seagrass in Calatagan, Batangas.

Keywords: Correlation, Importance value, Physico-chemical parameters, Seagrass, Species diversity



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	1
Approval Sheet	2
Acknowledgments	3
Abstract	4
Table of Contents	5
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	9
1.2 Conceptual (<i>or Theoretical</i>) Framework	11
1.3 Statement of the Problem	12
1.4 Scope and Limitations	12
1.5 Significance of the Study	13
1.6 Definition of Terms	15
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Conceptual Literature	16
2.2 Related Studies	20
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research Design	28
3.2 Research Setting	28
3.3 Research Procedure	29
3.4 Data Gathering and Statistical Analysis	30



CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Results 33

4.2 Discussion 41

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions 47

5.2 Recommendations 48

Cited References 49

Appendices

A. Map 53

B. Standard Procedures 54

C. Raw Data 62

D. Figures 123

E. Photo documentation 125

Cirriculum Vitae 127



LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
4.1. Taxonomical Classification of Seagrass Species in Calatagan, Batangas Under Family <i>Cymodoceaceae</i>	35
4.2 Taxonomical Classification of seagrass Species in Calatagan, Batangas Under Family <i>Hydrocharitaceae</i>	36
4.3 Seagrass species observed in the sampling sites With their average relative abundance And importance value	37
4.4 Computed Diversity Indexes In The 3 Sampling Sites	39
4.5 Summarized correlation between seagrasses Abundance and the measured Physico-chemical Parameters with standard value for Class Sb water	40



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
4.1 Number of Seagrass in the 3 sampling sites	38

