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## DIVERSITY AND SPECIES COMPOSITION OF MANGROVES SPECIES IN PILAR, SIARGAO ISLAND, SURIGAO DEL NORTE

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### ABSTRACT

Mangroves are considered the most significant coastal ecosystem components and among the most productive and biologically complex ecosystems on the planet. The assessment of mangrove species plays a critical role in preserving and protecting the mangroves forest. The study aimed to assess the mangrove species in Pilar, Siargao Island. The belt transect was employed with a dimension of modified 10 m x 12 m and was installed per quadrat. Eight mangrove species were identified under four families, and these are *B. sexanguela*, *C. decandra*, *R. apiculata*, *R. mucronata*, *A. alba*, *A. marina*, *L. littorea*, and *X. granatum*. One species, *C. decandra*, is categorized by the IUCN as a near-threatened state. Results from the mangroves vegetation structure show that *R. apiculata* got the highest relative frequency (26.32%), density (35.46%), and dominance (55.08%) therefore, it has the highest importance value (116.85%). This further implies that *R. apiculata* is the most essential and acclimated mangrove species in the study area. The species diversity in Pilar, Siargao Island falls under very low diversity ( $H' = 1.63$ ), which might be attributed to some human-related disturbances. Thus, further consideration in future planning and conservation to increase the mangrove ecosystem's resiliency is needed.

**Key words:** mangroves management, diversity, dominance, conservation status