

ABSTRACT

Julie Angela G. Yu. "DIVERSITY AND MICROHABITAT SELECTION OF REPTILES IN KAWA-KAWA, MOUNT HAMIGUITAN RANGE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, BRGY. MAPUTI, SAN ISIDRO, DAVAO ORIENTAL, PHILIPPINES". (Undergraduate Thesis). Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology. June 2018.

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Kawa-kawa is a part of the buffer zone of Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Barangay Maputi, San Isidro, Davao Oriental. This is a pioneering study that provides a preliminary inventory of the reptiles in Kawa-kawa, its species diversity and microhabitat preferences. To achieve these objectives, three sites were established and sampled by a combination of opportunistic catching, pitfall trapping and belt transect methods for finding and capturing reptiles. Morphometrics, body temperatures, microhabitat preferences and physicochemical factors were recorded.

Surveys documented a total of 15 species belonging to six families. All sites had moderate diversity. However, the highest species richness and diversity occurred in Site 1. *Sphenomorphus sp. 1* was the most abundant of all species with 14 individuals found in all sites. Majority of the reptiles prefer type II or ground microhabitat, particularly leaf litter, rocks and boulders. *Sphenomorphus sp. 1* had the highest mean body temperature recorded while *G. sophiae* had the lowest body temperature among the 15 species. None of the documented reptiles were listed by IUCN as threatened. However, 80% of the species are Philippine endemic. The presence of endemic reptiles in the study area makes Kawa-kawa worthy of conservation and proper management planning to maintain the integrity of the area and sustain reptile populations.