NUTRIENT CONTRIBUTION THROUGH THE LITTERFALL IN THE MANGROVES OF PAGBILAO, PHILIPPINES

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Out of the 31 mangrove plant species listed for the Philippines (Brown & Fisher, 1928), the species of *Avicennia*, *Rhizophora*, *Lumnitzera*, *Ceriops*, *Sonneratia*, *Bruguiera*, *Acanthus*, *Derris* and *Aegiceras corniculatum*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Nypa fruticans*, *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, and *Xylocarpus granatum* were common in the Mangrove Reserve of Pagbilao. *Rhizophora* spp. and *Nypa fruticans* occurred along the muddy banks. Pure stand of *Avicennia* in patches occurred in the supra-tidal zone.

From 10 litter baskets placed perpendicular to each other it was found that the annual litter production was 934 g dry wt m^{-2} comparable to those of Thailand (Aksornkae, 1980) and Puerto Rice (People et al 1974). Leaves contributed to the bulk of the litter. Most species flowered during the dry season. The annual contribution of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium were 656 g m^{-2}, 83 g m^{-2}, and 487 g m^{-2} respectively. The overall annual elemental contribution from the litter decreased in the following order.

$$Na > Ca > N > K > Mg > p$$

References

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