INVENTORY OF MILLIPEDES (MYRIAPODA: DIPLOPODA) IN DAVAO DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE

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ABSTRACT

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This study presents an inventory of millipedes (Myriapoda: Diplopoda) within the Davao del Sur State College (DSSC) campus to address the prevalent lack of knowledge and misconceptions among students, who often misidentify millipedes as hairy caterpillars and mistakenly regard them as harmful pests. An intensive survey method was employed, utilizing both handpicking and pitfall trapping techniques. Eight sampling stations were established along a 540-meter transect line, with each 10×10 meter plot surveyed twice weekly over a one-month period. Pitfall traps were deployed overnight for 24 hours, followed by a 5-minute active search at each station. A total of 2,117 millipede specimens were collected and identified, representing three species: *Orthomorpha coarctata*, *Trigoniulus corallinus*, and *Thyropygus sp* Diversity indices revealed a Simpson's Index (D) of 0.6245 and a Shannon Diversity Index of 0.5661 which indicates a low biodiversity. *O. coarctata* emerged as the

dominant species, comprising 74.96% of the total population and recorded in all sampling stations. (This research aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15: Life on Land), which emphasizes the importance of conserving terrestrial biodiversity. Limited biodiversity is shown by the low diversity index seen on campus, most likely as a result of habitat disturbance). These findings highlight the ecological presence and adaptability of millipede species on campus and emphasize the need for increased awareness and education about their ecological role to reduce harmful misconceptions.

Keywords: Myriapoda: Diplopoda, Millipedes Diversity, Inventory survey, Davao del Sur State College, Species Identification

SDG: 15 Life on Land