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**ECO-TAXONOMIC STUDIES OF SEA CUCUMBER (*Holothuridae*)
IN NASEGBO, BATANGAS**

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~~ECO~~-TAXONOMIC STUDIES OF SEA CUCUMBER (Holothuroidea)
IN NASUGBU, BATANGAS

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*Eco-taxonomic studies of sea cucumber
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ABSTRACT

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The study was conducted at the three selected sites in Nasugbu, namely; Talibeach, Balaytigue and Maya-maya.

This study deals with the ecological and taxonomic studies of sea cucumber, which aims to identify the different species of sea cucumber as well as to correlate the diversity and abundance of each species with the characteristics of the habitat.

Twelve species have been identified belonging to the Families Holothuriidae, Stichopodidae and Synaptidae. The family Holothuriidae was the most common with eight species identified. The family Synaptidae is represented by three species while one species belong to family Stichopodidae.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABSTRACT	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF APPENDICES	xi
INTRODUCTION	1
Importance of the Study	2
Objectives of the Study	3
Time and Place of the Study	3
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	4
MATERIALS AND METHODS	8
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	10
Ecological Observation	10
Systematics	24
SUMMARY	42
LITERATURE CITED	43
APPENDICES	45

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Ecological and physical characteristics of the three sampling stations	19
2	Population count of holothurian species in three sampling stations from February and March 1999	21

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Location of Sampling Stations	11
2	Sampling site in Station 1, Talibeach, showing wide internal areas	12
3	Sampling site in Station 1, Talibeach, showing dead corals	13
4	Sea grasses observed in the sampling station	14
5	Sampling site in Station 2, Maya-maya, Nasugbu, Batangas, showing the rocky area.....	16
6	Sampling site in Maya-maya during the start of low tide.....	16
7	Sampling site in Station 2, Balaytigue, Nasugbu Batangas	17
8	Different species of sea cucumbers during evisceration	23
9	Living specimen of <i>Actinopyga echinitis</i>	25
10	a. Living specimen of <i>Bohadschia marmorata</i> showing the dorsal side .	27
	b. Living specimen of <i>Bohadschia marmorata</i> showing the cream ventral side	27
11	a. Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Cystipus) inhabilis</i> showing its dorsal side.....	28
	b. Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Cystipus) inhabilis</i> showing its ventral side	28
12	Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Halodeima) pulla</i> Selenka showing its constructed body	30
13	Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Halodeima) atra</i> showing its extended pedicels	32

14	Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Matriatyla) scabra</i> showing characteristic markings of dorsum	32
15	a. Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis</i> showing the dorsal side	34
	b. Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis</i> showing the ventral side and when animals are contracted.....	34
16	a. Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Selenkothuria) mactenensis</i> showing the coarse dorsal side	35
	b. Living specimen of <i>Holothuria (Selenkothuria) mactenensis</i> showing the ventral side.....	35
17	Living specimen of <i>Thelenota ananas</i> showing the coarse body surface	37
18	Living specimen of <i>Synapta maculata</i> showing the extended tentacles and the course body	39
19	Living specimen of <i>Opheodesoma grisea</i> showing tentacles extended and its brownish – green bands	41
20	Living specimen of <i>Opheodesoma glabra</i> showing the extended tentacles.....	41

LIST OF APPENDICES

	Page
Glossary	43
Key for Identification.....	44

ECO-TAXONOMIC STUDIES OF SEA CUCUMBER (Holothuroidea) IN NASUGBU, BATANGAS

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INTRODUCTION

Sea cucumber belongs to Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Echinodermata and class Holothuroidea. About 900 living species, have been reported worldwide which are distributed in five orders namely; Dendrochirota, Elasipoda, Malpadonia, Apoda and Aspidochirota.

Sea cucumbers or sea slugs have been a food item and a source of income of the people of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. The harvesting of sea cucumbers for processing into *trepang* (their dried form) was first reported in the Philippines in 1911. Sea cucumbers are sold mainly in dried form, because it is easier to store and handle than the fresh product. They are valued as an exotic delicacy and a flavorful condiments for soup, noodles and other dishes. Some species are prepared as salads minus the internal organs (Trinidad Roa, 1997).