

TAXONOMIC SURVEY OF FROG AND TOAD SPECIES (ORDER ANURA) IN
THE RAJAH SIKATUNA PROTECTED LANDSCAPE
BOHOL, PHILIPPINES

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

By:

MARK IAN C. ANDRES

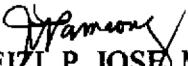
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Adviser

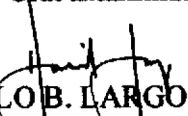

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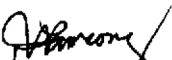
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Approved by the Committee on Oral Examination with a grade of PASSED.


DANILO B. LARGO, Ph.D.
Chairman



MARIA NERIZA C. ARCHE, M.Sc.
Member


ANTONIO E. BATOMALAUQUE, Ph.D.
Member


REIZL P. JOSE, M.Sc.
Adviser

Accepted and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY.

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RAMON S. DEL FIERRO, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

May 28, 2008
Date of Oral Examination

ABSTRACT

A taxonomic study of frogs and toads species in 15 selected study sites of Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape, Bohol was conducted for a period of seven months survey (October 2006-April 2007). Visual encounter technique was used along established transect and quadrat in the forest and agricultural habitats. Using the method, anuran frequency and richness were computed. The association among species was also computed and analyzed based on the species presence or absence within the quadrats. Habitat characteristic and other environment variables were also measured and determined. A total of 16 species of anurans belonging to 5 families and 11 genera were recorded from the selected area. Across environmental gradients, forest habitats showed high number of species compared to agricultural habitats. Distribution and frequency of occurrence among anurans was attributed to changes of the quality of habitat. As for association, *Limnonectes*, *Platymantes*, *Rhacophorus* showed a positive association in the forest habitat while *Kaloula*, *Fejervarja*, and *Polypedates* showed a positive association in agricultural habitat. The positive association between two species (ex. Forest: *R. appendiculatus* and *R. pardalis*; Agriculture: *K. picta* and *F. cancrivora*) in different habitats may be due to water requirement, environment variables, or acoustic interaction of species. This study revealed that habitat of anurans influences its distribution and occurrence in specific habitats. Furthermore, species may differ in their response to biotic and abiotic factors consistent with their ecological interactions and behavior.

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