

BIOTIC COMMUNITY INSIDE THE SPONGE, LAKOUSUBERITES sp.
(PORIFERA: DEMOSPONGIAE)

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School
University of San Carlos

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Biology

by

Florencia Azura Jimenez

November 1972

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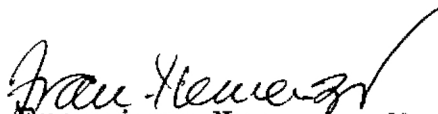
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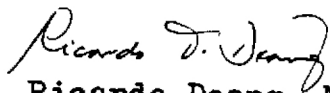
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The Thesis attached hereto entitled: "BIOTIC COMMUNITY
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prepared and submitted by Florencia Azura Jimenez in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of
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APPROVAL SHEET

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Biology, this thesis entitled "BIOTIC COMMUNITY INSIDE THE SPONGE, LAXOSUBERITES sp. (PORIFERA: DEMOSPONGIAE)," has been prepared and submitted by Florencia Azura Jimenez. The members of the committee assigned to her have reviewed and accepted the thesis and hereby recommend her for the Oral Examination.

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ABSTRACT

Thirteen samples of Laxosuberites sp. (Porifera; Demospongiae) collected from the northeast portion of Silut Bay, Liloan, Cebu within a period of eight months were studied and dissected for inhabitants and associates.

The length of the irregular-shaped, soft bodied Laxosuberites sp. ranges from 9 to 15.3 cm and the width ranges from 7.5 to 14 cm.

The thirteen samples of sponges were found to contain a total of 146 individuals representing four phyla of the animal kingdom and seven species of plants representing two phyla. Ophiuroids, hydroids, polychaetes, echinoids, and 3 orders of crustaceans were represented, while the plants Thalassia, Euphalus, Halimeda, Halophila, Dictyota, Padina, and Ulva reticulata were found.

The most common associates were the annelids, brittle stars, crabs, and Halimeda. The majority of them were found inside the gastral cavity and embedded in tissues; relatively few were attached to the undersurface of the body of the sponges.

The relationship of Laxosuberites sp. and the animal associates is generally commensalism except for the crabs which to some extent feed on the sponge. The plant associates were merely co-habitation of same area and possibly competition for space and some basic requirements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	v
ABSTRACT	viii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
INTRODUCTION	1
MATERIALS AND METHODS	6
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	10
Classification account of <u>Laxosuberites</u> sp.	10
Silut Bay	15
Description of the location where the sponges were collected	17
Remarks on the different associates	18
Animals	22
Plants	34
Relationship of the associates with <u>Laxosuberites</u> sp.	37
Relationship among the associates	42
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	43
LITERATURE CITED	45

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
1. Animals and plants associated with <u>Laxosuberites</u> sp.	19
2. A systematic list of the members of the biotic community in sponge <u>Laxosuberites</u> sp.	20

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