

Research Article

New records of Moss flora in Mt. Mayo range, Davao Oriental, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

Mosses are among the underexplored taxa in the Philippines, where habitat degradation continues to cause biodiversity loss. The province of Davao Oriental is known for its high species richness, rarity, and endemism, although the majority are yet to be discovered. This study presents new records of moss flora in Mt. Mayo Range, Davao Oriental, Philippines. Alpha-taxonomy was used to assess, identify, calculate richness, and determine the conservation status of the documented species. Results revealed new records in the locality: 30 species, 17 genera, and 13 families. The local assessment revealed 18 abundant species, while 12 species are noted to be rare. In addition, three endemic species were recorded: *Ectropothecium ferruginum* Jaeger, *Ectropothecium luzoniae* Jaeger, and *Thuidium benguetense* Broth. ex Bartram. This study reports the first record of *E. luzoniae* in Mindanao, previously documented in the Luzon and Visayas region. Mosses were confined on the tree branches and trunks, whereas moss epiphytes thrived in decaying logs. This study provides baseline information on the previously undocumented moss diversity in the surveyed sites. Further explorations are needed to document more species and inform conservation decisions. Advancing moss conservation is also sought, especially among less-studied mountain regions in Mindanao, Philippines.

Key words: Conservation status, mosses, Mt. Mayo Range, Philippines, species richness

