

EDITORIAL

The diverse topics covered by four original papers and one research notes in this 9th volume of The Palawan Scientist Journal of the Western Philippines University were contributed by researchers from WPU and other agencies and academic institutions from within and outside the country.

The first paper by Lars Vermeer and co-authors presented the effects of resin harvesting on the status of the *Agathis philippinensis* population. The study found that there is overharvesting of the resource, which threaten the population of *A. philippinensis* in the studied area.

Alejandro A. Bernardo Jr. described the importance of riparian forest in enhancing the avifaunal diversity. The study found high avifaunal species in the riparian forest strip compared to swidden farm and primary forest.

The toxicity of dispersant Mardeus-455 added to water accommodated fractions (WAF) on rabbitfish fry was investigated by Rodulf Anthony T. Balisco and Gerald F. Qunitio. The study provided evidence that fish fry mortalities were proportional to the ratio of dispersant and WAF.

The status of research instruction among secondary schools implementing Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) Program in MIMAROPA Region, school year 2015-2016 was studied by Wendell I. Formalejo and Eufrecina Jean Dr. Ramirez.

The research notes of Jean Beth S. Jontila describe the possible occurrence of the sea cucumber *Actinopyga spinea* in one of the islands within Puerto Princesa Bay.

We are so thankful to all the authors of these papers and we look forward for their continued support. It is because of our contributors and the diligent works of our external reviewers and members of the editorial board that make us achieve the CHEDs Journal Incubation Grant from 2017 - 2020.

With this current grant along with the WPU's core values such as culture of excellence, commitment, creativity and team work, it is without doubt that The Palawan Scientist would become at par with other reputable journals.

Congratulations for a job well done!

Elsa P. Manarpaac, PhD
President
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