

44th FEFCO

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Friday, 24 August 2018, 10:30 – 12:00
Faculty of Agriculture Main Building, S174

Cascading herbivory effects of Formosan sika deer (*Cervus nippon taiouanus*) on a tropical karst forest

As increasing deer populations reduced plant diversity in many forest ecosystems worldwide, deer herbivory may also alter ecosystem functions. In this study, we studied cascading effects of deer herbivory on plant-litter-soil interactions and examined whether deer herbivory led to homogenization of forest communities. This study was carried out in the Kenting Karst Forest, Taiwan. Fifteen deer exclosures were established adjacent to the Kenting Forest Dynamics Plot, a 10 ha permanent plot. During January, 2015 to October, 2017, every woody seedling taller than 10 cm within the deer exclosures and adjacent control plots were tagged, mapped and identified to species at a three-month interval.

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