

DIVERSITY OF THE COMPANION FLORA OF THE MANGROVES IN THE COASTAL NATIONAL PARKS OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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ABSTRACT

*Mangroves, intertidal zones ecosystems, are characterized by the presence of specific species such as mangroves. In Côte d'Ivoire, the mangrove is accompanied by a characteristic flora which remains little studied. In this study, it is subject to inventory the flora present in forest ecosystems of mangroves in Azagny National Park (ANP) and those of Ehotilé Islands National Park (EINP). The floristic compositions, diversity and structures of these different mangroves are also compared. Twenty inventory plots were placed in each mangrove in the parks studied. A floristic list of 114 companion species had been drawn up for swamps in ANP. Regarding the EINP, 171 plant species have been inventoried. The most common companion plant species in the mangroves of ANP are *Echinochloa pyramidalis*, *Culcasia angolensis*, and *Calamus deerratus*. The most frequent plant species in the EINP on the different plots are *Cercestis afzelii* (1), *Homalium lesteui* (0.85), *Baisea axillaris* (0.85). The great variation in this diversity of species from one site to another may be related to the soil diversity. The mangroves of the EINP have a greater flora richness than those of the ANP.*

KEYWORDS: Mangrove, Companion Species, Biodiversity, Azagny, Ehotilé, Côte d'Ivoire

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