

# Studies on Ecological Monitoring of Plant Community and Plant Diversity in Shenzhen, Southern China

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## Abstract

From Jan. 2013 to Nov. 2018, we carried out the investigation on vegetation studies in the ecological monitoring programs, Shenzhen and totally researched 170 plant communities of mountain areas etc., few areas of street regions and parks etc., for communities' structural characteristics and plant diversity. We comparatively analyzed natural forests, semi-natural forest and artificial forest composition and structural characters and family, genus and species diversity level and the main affected factors. We also researched and analyzed these communities' structural characteristics and plant diversity, comparatively analyzed natural forests, semi-natural forest and artificial forest composition and structural characters and family, genus and species diversity level, the main affected factors; researched and analyzed the relationship between plant community structure characteristics with the absorbing ability to PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutants. The result showed that the structure and plant diversity of natural forest were obviously better than artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest, the semi-natural forest was the middle level of the forests, In the indices of height, DBH, coverage and crow width etc. of tree layer, natural forests and semi-natural forests were obvious higher than that of artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest; in some forests of artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest, though their richness indices of family and

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genus were a slightly higher, but this contribution was majorly due to herb layer plants, and some shrub layer plants. Analyzing three kinds of communities, the number of tree layer species of natural forest was the largest, and their every  $\alpha$ -diversity index value was the highest; these characteristics values of semi-natural forest were second, artificial disturbed forests or artificial forests were the lowest; in shrub layer, and herb layer, few  $\alpha$ -diversity indices of artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest were a slightly higher than that of some natural forests, but the integral values of the diversity indices of natural forest and semi-natural forest were obviously higher than the former. The research showed that in the artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest, because there have some little scale clearing areas, so some pioneer plant species could enter the community and formed a temporarily increase of species diversity, however, these species major were some shrub and herb plants; but tree layer possessed obviously more, even surpassed several ten times biomass than shrub and herb layers. Therefore, the respects of maintain ecosystem stability and other ecological efficient have major and dominated position and so on; and then this community can be natural recovery and succession, those fore-mentioned new entire plants shall withdraw from the community and are replaced by the original plants of the community; but this process has already caused the ecological efficient loss and ecosystem unstable. Above research results are better evidence and theory reference to the argument problems on that are natural forest and natural restoration forest biodiversity higher? or is artificial forest biodiversity higher? and or is more artificial disturbed forest higher? Our researches showed that used random investigation method set quadrats, and combined typical investigation method, the structural indices in the all layer of community and all diversity indices of tree, shrub and herb layers and the integral values were similar, same or usually these indices in the community which set 600 m<sup>2</sup>, 800 m<sup>2</sup> total quadrat area were higher ( $\alpha$ -diversity) than that of more than 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, 4000 m<sup>2</sup> or 7000 m<sup>2</sup>, even more than 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> total quadrat area of communities. These lots of researches further proved that according to minimum area method for vegetation survey, in subtropical region, using random investigation method combined with typical investigation set 400 m<sup>2</sup> or 400 m<sup>2</sup> - 500 m<sup>2</sup> total quadrat area in a community is correct, or 510 - 600 m<sup>2</sup> quadrat is more stability to the investigation of plant community. The research showed that index values of plant diversity Shenzhen are higher than that of other some cities or some wild mountain areas, especially the natural forests are even higher than that of some other tropical natural conservation areas and some natural forests in other tropical regions. The researches identified that when analyzing a regional plant community biodiversity, if calculating only the species diversity, it shall understand only the species grade situation, so if need understand the diversity situation of whole nenuitic level, not only calculate species diversity, but also need calculate the diversity of family, genus, and also need analyze combining the indices of diversity, evenness and richness of several grades of family, genus and species, it shall obtain more objective and round evaluation. The paper introduced some represented plant communities researched results and situations, pointed at

the vegetation distribution status and some plant community component problems that the distribution pattern of vegetation in Shenzhen is that natural forest occupies a little proportion, some are semi-natural forest, about 70% proportion of city area is artificial forests in mountain area and parks, etc., ought to implement the effective measures to remold most of mountain artificial forests. The research identified that plant community has a good absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  capability, therefore, reducing  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration in atmosphere, the better structure and diversity of community are the stronger absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  capability it possesses. Authors proposed the suggestions on promoting and optimizing local vegetation composition elements and structure, so that raising plant diversity and the biomass of plant communities in each area, improving ecological environment and optimizing ecosystem.

### Keywords

Shenzhen, Vegetation, Community, Structure, Diversity,  $PM_{2.5}$ , Ecological Monitoring, Natural Forest, Artificial Forest

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## 1. Introduction

In order to respond the call of Shenzhen Government for constructing ecological city, in Oct. 2006, Shenzhen Environmental Monitoring Center combined with Zhongkai University of Agriculture and Engineering put forwarded constructing ecological monitoring network system in whole city scope (the first author as all application materials writer and the master planner of the project), obtained government supported and investment in 2007, constructed 5 ecological monitoring stations in 5 Districts and New Districts of Dapeng, Futian, Baoan, Pingshan and Nanshan, Shenzhen.

In former, about the vegetation structure of Shenzhen and plant diversity have carried out some researches, Liu et al. (2007) investigated to *Acacia mangium* plantation in Phoenix Mountain; Liu et al. (2010) carried out research to the structure of community of Danan Mountain; Zhang et al. (2007) carried out study on diversity of *Syzygium odoratum* community in Dapeng Peninsula, Shenzhen; Kang et al. (2005) made investigation about plant type and community characteristic in Bijiangshan Park, Shenzhen; Wang et al. (2003) researched on the species diversity and succession situation of natural forest communities in Nanshan District of Shenzhen. Above researches all are admeasurement and analysis on several or about ten communities in narrower scale; because the plant community is successional and variable, so need make wider scale and more plant community researches, and then can understand the situation of dynamics and composition and biodiversity of the vegetation. From Jan. 2013, our organizations carried out ecological monitoring in respect of plant, insect, higher animal and microbe, then continued to take many other areas measures and researches, especially carried out lots of vegetation ecology researches, collected

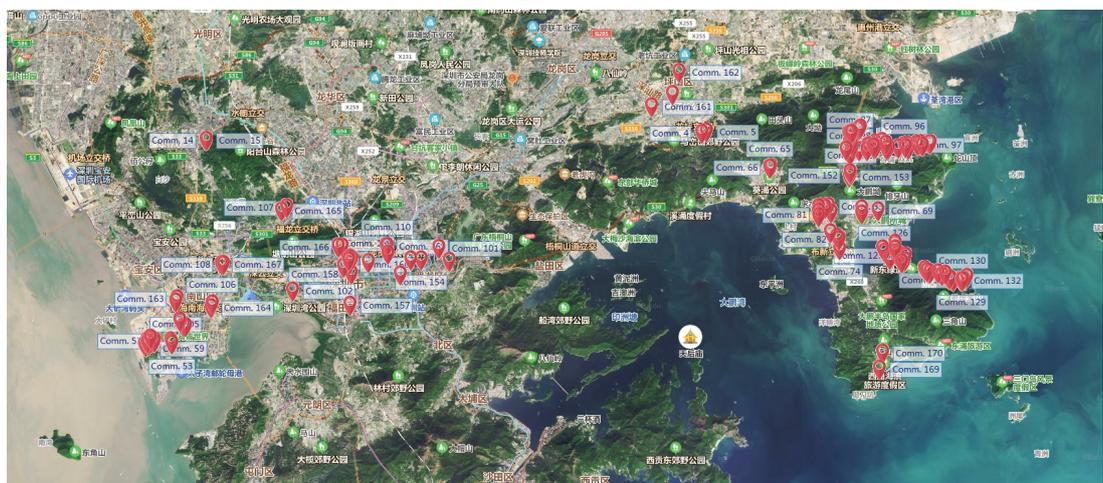
many of plant specimens and built the data bases of plants and animals. In aspect of plant community and diversity research, until 2018, we totally made 170 communities researches. In this paper, we focus on introducing a part of the research situation of the communities. These researches are importantly significant and theory reference to exploring the status of ecosystem structure, tracking monitoring the change trends of these biological characters and factors, and plant ecology, phytogeography, ecological monitoring research, and the strategy draw up on optimization of local ecosystem protection.

## 2. Study Areas and Methods

### 2.1. Study Areas

Shenzhen is a coastal city in South China, neighboring Hong Kong and Macao, and has been an important window of China's reform and opening up, and the important economic developed city, its longitude lies between 113°43' and 114°38'E, and its latitude between 22°24' and 22°52'N. The total area of Shenzhen is 1997.47 km<sup>2</sup>, it has 310 rivers and streams associated with the nine hydrographic systems and has sea area of 1145 km<sup>2</sup>, boasts 260 km of coastline. It has a subtropical monsoon climate. Its weather is generally temperate to mild, with plenty of rain and sunshine. The annual average temperature is 23°C. The average annual rainfall totals 1935.8 mm and the average yearly number of hours of sunshine is 1837.6.

From Jan. 2013 to now, we carried out investigation on vegetation studies in the ecological monitoring programs, Shenzhen, until June. 2017, we have made the investigation studies of 122 communities in every kind green gland; since Aug. 2017 to May 2018, carried out 5 communities in Paiya mountain, 13 communities in Baguang region, and 30 communities in Yangmeikeng, Shenzhen, total 170 communities; made comparative researches to natural forest, semi-natural forest, artificial forest in mountain areas, street regions and beach mangrove communities. **Figure 1** is the 170 communities distributed situation.



**Figure 1.** The geographical distribution situation of 170 plant communities in Shenzhen.

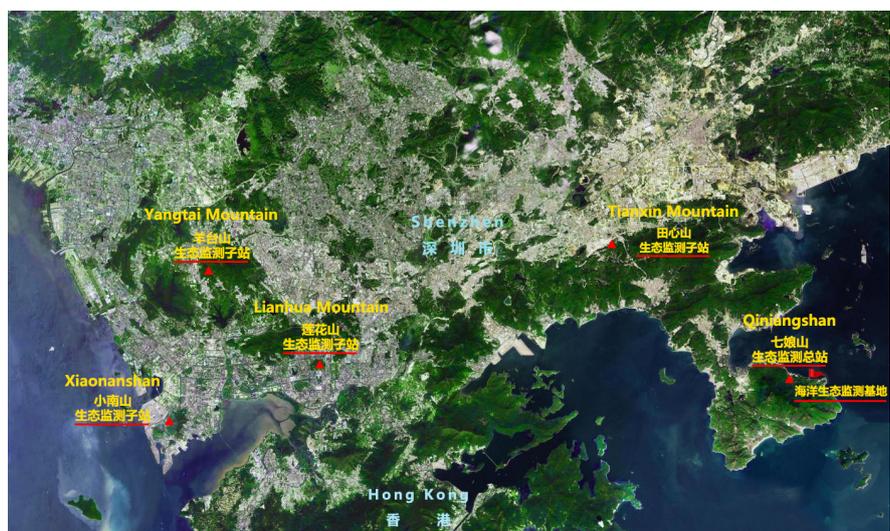
In 170 communities, among 15 communities whose located in 5 ecological monitoring stations in 5 District and New Districts were main and center research areas and communities, other communities were as the vegetation research system network sites, so that observed and analyzed their change trends and effect relation each other. The main 15 communities geographical distribution situation see **Figure 2**, their places and community name as follow:

Yangmeikeng, Qiniangshan, this station is the center monitoring station, several communities geographical distribution and community name situation: Comm. 1: *Macaranga sampsonii-Rhodomyrtus tomentosa-Carex cruciata*, 114°34'55.10"E, 22°32'25.79"N, altitude 110 m; Comm. 2: *Machilus velutina-Psychotria rubra-Iantum capillus-junonis*, 114°34'25.84"E, 22°32'36.55"N, altitude 125 m; Comm. 3: *Alstonia scholaris-Psychotria rubra-Adiantum capillus-junonis*: 114°34'28.20"E, 22°32'41.44"N, altitude 180 m.

Chiao, Tianxin Mountain located in Pingshan Town, Shenzhen, the mountain located on the side a reservoir, chose 2 hill area communities: Comm.1, *Litchi chinensis-Schefflera minutistellata-Blechnum orientale* community, 22°39'10"N, 114°23'35"E, altitude 72 m, Comm. 2, *Eucalyptus robusta-Rhodomyrtus tomentosa-Dicranopteris pedata* community, 22°39'29"N, 114°23'57"E, altitude 85 m.

Yangtai Mountain: Comm. 1: *Litchi chinensis-Ilex asprella-Blechnum orientale*, 22°39'19.73"N, 113°55'49.61"E, altitude 108 m. Comm. 2, 22°39'20.84"N, 113°55'47.91"E, altitude 94 m.

Xiaonanshan: Comm. 1: *Microcos paniculata-Fissistigma oldhamii-Ophiopogon bodinieri*, 22°29'29.89"N, 113°52'52.84"E, altitude 82 m; Comm.2: *Schefflera minutistellata-Ficus hirta Vahl-Blechnum orientale*, 22°29'25.61"N, 113°52'54.68"E, altitude 105 m; Comm.3: *Dalbergia odorifera-Sterculia lanceolat-Dicranopteris pedata*, 22°29'18.46"N, 113°53'04.09"E, altitude 159 m.



**Figure 2.** The geographical distributed map of 5 study areas in Ecological Monitoring System, Shenzhen.

Lianhua Mountain, Comm. 1: *Ficus benjamina* + *Ficus microcarpa*-*Rhododendron simsii*-*Pteris semipinnata*, 22°33'19.15"N, 114°03'20.15"E ; Comm. 2: *Acacia confuse* + *Dalbergia benthami*-*Psychotria rubra*-*Pteris semipinnata*, 22°33'22.36"N, 114°03'17.72"E, Comm. 3: *Acacia confuse*-*Ilex asprella*-*Pteris semipinnata*, 22°33'25.68"N, 114°03'19.61"E, Comm. 4: *Albizia falcataria*-*Psychotria rubra*-*Blechnum orientale*, 22°33'28.82"N, 114°03'27.63"E, Comm. 5: *Acacia confuse*-*Alstonia scholaris*-*Nephrolepis auriculata*, 22°33'26.95"N, 114°03'16.74"E.

In 2015, Environment Monitoring Main Station of China set Ground and Fixed Point Ecological Monitoring Station of Urban Ecosystem in this ecological monitoring central station of Shenzhen; Now, there set a National Environmental Sciences Observation and Research Station, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, it is one of eight the construction stations of the first batch in China, and a National Field Science Observation and Research Station, Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

## 2.2. Measure Methods

According to minimum area method for vegetation survey, in subtropical region, using random investigation method, then the total quadrat area of every community are 400 m<sup>2</sup> (Zhang, 2011), it has gratified the demand to investigate and understand the all species of the community, so, more scholars used 400 m<sup>2</sup> or more than the area that were 410 - 600 m<sup>2</sup> (Gao et al., 1997; Grobler et al., 2002; Zhu et al., 2004; Huang et al., 2007; Ortega-Álvarez et al., 2011; Turner et al., 2012). In these researches, random investigation method was used combined with typical investigation method set quadrats, the total quadrat area of every community were more than 600 - 2000 m<sup>2</sup>, few reached 3500 - 7600 m<sup>2</sup> as comparative research, one reached 17,500 m<sup>2</sup>; every community investigation was no less than 3 quadrats, every quadrat size from 100 to 300 m<sup>2</sup>. Measured and recorded species name, individual number, plant height, DBH (only tree), coverage of tree, shrub, and herb layers, so that to understand the situation of dominant species of every layer of communities. The shrub layer set up four to six smaller quadrats inside every big quadrat, with every little quadrat area 4 × 4 m; the herb layer set up four 1 × 1 m little quadrats inside every shrub layer quadrat. Higher than 4 m individuals were divided into tree layer, under 4 m individuals were divided into shrub layer (include the seeding of tree). Then calculated and analyzed diversity, evenness, and richness indices.

## 2.3. Data Analysis

### Important value index

The calculate formula of tree layer of important value

Important value

$$= \text{Relative density} + \text{Relative frequency} + \text{Relative dominance} \quad (1)$$

Or: Important value

$$=(\text{Relative density} + \text{Relative frequency} + \text{Relative dominance})/300 \quad (2)$$

The calculate formula of shrub and herb layer of important value

Important value

$$=\text{Relative density} + \text{Relative frequency} + \text{Relative coverage} \quad (3)$$

Or: Important value

$$=(\text{Relative density} + \text{Relative frequency} + \text{Relative coverage})/300 \quad (4)$$

### Diversity indices

1) Simpson index of species

$$D = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{N_i(N_i - 1)}{N(N - 1)} \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n) \quad (\text{as same at below}) \quad (5)$$

In the formula,  $S$  is the number of species,  $N_i$  is the number of individuals of species  $i$ , and  $N$  is the number of individuals of all species. The index is only used to calculate the species diversity, and is not related to any diversity situation on family and genus.

The Simpson index of improved pattern of species is expressed as follows:

$$D_s = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{N_{si}(N_{si} - 1)}{N_s(N_s - 1)} \quad (6)$$

$S$  is the number of species,  $N_s$  is the number of individuals of all species,  $N_{si}$  is the number of individual species  $i$ .

Where  $S$  is the number of species,  $N_s$  is the number of individuals of all species, and  $N_{si}$  is the number of individual species  $i$ .

2) Index of genus diversity (Huang et al., 2016a, 2017; Liang et al., 2016):

$$D_{g1} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^g \frac{N_{gi}(N_{gi} - 1)}{N_g(N_g - 1)} \quad (7)$$

$$D_{g2} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^g \left( \frac{N_{gi}}{N_g} \right)^2 \quad (8)$$

Here  $N_{gi}$  is the number of species which belongs to genus  $i$ ,  $N_g$  is the number of all genera, and  $D_g$  is the index of genera diversity. If there is only one species and one genus in one community, the numerator and denominator should not be subtracted with 1.

3) Index of family diversity (Huang et al., 2016a, 2017; Liang et al., 2016):

$$D_{f1} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^f \frac{N_{fi}(N_{fi} - 1)}{N_f(N_f - 1)} \quad (9)$$

$$D_{f2} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^f \left( \frac{N_{fi}}{N_f} \right)^2 \quad (10)$$

where  $f$  is the number of family,  $N_f$  is the number of all families,  $N_{fi}$  is the number of genus which belongs to family  $i$ , and  $D_f$  is the diversity index of family of community. If there is only one species and one genus in one community, the numerator and denominator should not be subtracted with 1.

## 4) Composite diversity index (Huang et al., 2017):

$$D_{c1} = D_{f1} + D_{g1} + D_s \quad (11)$$

$$D_{c2} = D_{f2} + D_{g2} + D_s \quad (12)$$

where  $D_{c1}$  and  $D_{c2}$  are the composite diversity indices of community,  $D_{f1}$  and  $D_{f2}$  are the diversity indexes of families,  $D_{g1}$  and  $D_{g2}$  are the diversity indices of genus, and  $D_s$  is the diversity index of species (it is not any layer (as tree, herb) index, and is integral value; When  $D_c$  is high, the diversity of the community level is also high; meanwhile, the values of  $D_{f1}$ ,  $D_{f2}$  and  $D_{g1}$ ,  $D_{g2}$ ,  $D_s$ , and their proportion shall show the diversity composition situation. Only when every value of  $D_{f1}$ ,  $D_{f2}$ ,  $D_{g1}$ ,  $D_{g2}$ , or  $D_s$  are all high, and near equality of their proportion, the community biodiversity is optimum. If only the  $D_s$  value is high, or only the  $D_{g1}$ ,  $D_{g2}$  and the other two values are low, the diversity of the community is also low even if the  $D_c$  value is high.

## 5) Shannon-Wiener index

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^S P_i \ln P_i \quad (13)$$

Here  $S$  is the number of species,  $P_i$  is the ratio of species  $i$  individuals in all individuals, and  $H$  is the species diversity index.

**Richness indices**

## 1) Species richness index

$$\text{Odum index: } R_{s1} = \frac{S}{\ln N} \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Menhinnick index: } R_{s2} = \frac{\ln S}{\ln N} \quad (15)$$

Here  $S$  is the species index, and  $N$  is the number of whole species individuals.

## 2) Genus richness (Huang et al., 2017):

$$R_{g1} = G \quad (16)$$

$$R_{g2} = \frac{G}{\ln S} \quad (17)$$

where  $G$  is the number of genus, and  $S$  is the number of species; the formula shows that the higher the  $S$  value, the lower the diversity, such as in a community in which every genus possessed more species, the whole community will have lower genus diversity. If the number of genera in two communities is the same but each genus comprises one species in community 1, the genus diversity of this community is higher. If each genus includes more than one species or most of the genera contain one species and one or two genera are composed of more than two species in community 2, then its genus diversity is lower than that of community 1.

## 3) Family richness (Huang et al., 2016a, 2017; Liang et al., 2016):

$$R_{f1} = F \quad (18)$$

$$R_{f2} = \frac{\ln F}{\ln G} \quad (19)$$

$F$  is the number of families while  $G$  is the number of genera. The formula shows that when  $G$  is higher, diversity is lower. In a community, when each family had more genera, the whole community had lower family diversity. Thus, if the number of families in the two communities was the same, but each family had a genus only in community A, then the family diversity of this community was higher. However, if every family had more than one genus or if most of the families had one genus, but one to two families had more than two species in community B, its diversity was lower than community A.

**Pielou evenness index:**

$$J = \frac{H}{\ln S} \quad (20)$$

$$H = -\sum \left[ \left( \frac{N_i}{N} \right) \ln \left( \frac{N_i}{N} \right) \right]$$

In the formula,  $S$  is the number of species,  $N_i$  is the individual number of species  $i$ , and  $N$  is the individual number of all species in one layer.

**Similarity coefficient ( $\beta$ -diversity index)**

1) The similarity coefficient of species (improved pattern) is obtained as follows:

$$C_s = \frac{2N_s}{a_s + b_s} \quad (21)$$

$N_s$  is the number of species commonly existing in communities A and B,  $a_s$  is the number of species in community A,  $b_s$  is the number of species in community B, and  $C_s$  is the similarity coefficient of species.

2) The similarity coefficient of genera in a community is obtained as follows (Huang et al., 2016a, 2017):

$$C_g = \frac{2N_g}{a_g + b_g} \quad (22)$$

$N_g$  is the number of genera commonly existing in communities A and B,  $a_g$  is the number of genera in community A,  $b_g$  is the number of genera in community B, and  $C_g$  is the similarity coefficient of genera.

3) The similarity coefficient of families in a community is obtained as follows (Huang et al., 2016a, 2017):

$$C_f = \frac{2N_f}{a_f + b_f} \quad (23)$$

$N_f$  is the number of families commonly existing in communities A and B,  $a_f$  is the number of families in community A,  $b_f$  is the number of families in community B, and  $C_f$  is the similarity coefficient of families.

4) Synthetic similarity coefficient of family, genus, and species is obtained as follows (Huang et al., 2016a, 2017):

$$\beta_c = \frac{2(N_f + N_g + N_s)}{(N_{fa} + N_{ga} + N_{sa}) + (N_{fb} + N_{gb} + N_{sb})} \quad (24)$$

$\beta_c$  is the synthetic similarity coefficient of family, genus, and species,  $N_f$  is the number of common families in the two communities,  $N_g$  is number of common genera in the two communities,  $N_s$  is the number of common species in the two communities,  $N_{fa}$  is the number of families in community A,  $N_{ga}$  is the number of genera in community A,  $N_{sa}$  is the number of species in community A.  $N_{fb}$  is number of families in community B,  $N_{gb}$  is the number of genera in community B, and  $N_{sb}$  is the number of species in community B.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. The Characteristics of Plant Community

In all 170 plant communities, the basic measured data that are indices of average height, average DBH (only tree), coverage, relative dominance, relative density, relative frequency and important value were calculated.

Such as our research to the characteristics of one plant community in northern slope of Xiaonanshan see **Tables 1-3**.

All researched 170 communities were made above these community characteristics indices calculations, each community had 3 the characters tables, total 510 data tables. Meanwhile, each community carried out family, genus and species number, and their subordination relation analyzed, about 200 tables or figures.

The all plant communities were carried out comprehensive indices statistic and analysis. Such as the composition statistical analysis to species number in every layer of the 25 plant communities of Baguang region of Dapeng New

**Table 1.** The structural characteristics of tree layer of *Microcos paniculata*-*Fissistigma oldhamii*-*Ophiopogon bodinieri* community of Xiaonanshan.

Species name	Number	Average height (m)	DBH (cm)	Coverage (%)	Relative dominance	Relative density	Relative frequency	Importance value
<i>Microcos paniculata</i>	72	6.3	9.2	2.35	51.31	49.32	0.13	0.36
<i>Sterculia lanceolata</i>	4	7.8	15.4	0.21	4.59	32.88	0.13	0.17
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	1	10	20	0.08	1.75	2.74	0.07	0.03
<i>Millettia pulchra</i>	48	5.6	9.5	1.37	29.91	0.68	0.13	0.15
<i>Triadica cochinchinensis</i>	1	4	7.7	0.01	0.22	0.68	0.07	0.02
<i>Archidendron clypearia</i>	1	6	13	0.03	0.66	0.68	0.07	0.03
<i>Millettia oraria</i>	1	8	13	0.09	1.97	0.68	0.07	0.03
<i>Aporosa dioica</i>	2	5	5.8	0.04	0.87	1.37	0.07	0.03
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	9	4.7	9.6	0.19	4.15	6.16	0.07	0.08
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	5	6.2	8.8	0.13	2.84	3.45	0.07	0.04
<i>Syzygium araiocladum</i>	1	4.5	9.6	0.02	0.44	0.68	0.07	0.03
<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	1	4.5	12	0.06	1.31	0.68	0.07	0.03

**Table 2.** The structural characteristics of shrub layer of *Microcos paniculata*-*Fissistigma oldhamii*-*Ophiopogon bodinieri* community of Xiaonanshan.

Species name	Number	Average height (m)	Coverage (%)	Relative coverage	Relative density	Relative frequency	Important value
<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	3	50.67	0.06	1.79	6.82	6.06	0.05
<i>Zanthoxylum avicennae</i>	1	19.00	0.00	0.07	2.27	3.03	0.02
<i>Sterculi alanceolata</i>	6	59.67	0.19	5.45	13.64	12.12	0.10
<i>Psychotria asiatica</i>	3	99.67	0.28	7.94	6.82	9.09	0.08
<i>Aporosa dioica</i>	2	52.00	0.10	2.95	4.55	6.06	0.05
<i>Evodia leptia</i>	4	88.25	0.47	13.39	9.09	12.12	0.12
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	1	145.00	0.04	1.20	2.27	3.03	0.02
<i>Ficus hirta</i>	2	137.50	0.20	5.53	4.55	6.06	0.05
<i>Microcos paniculata</i>	1	240.00	0.04	1.22	2.27	3.03	0.02
<i>Schefflera minutistellata</i>	6	61.67	0.24	6.78	13.64	12.12	0.11
<i>Fissistigma oldhamii</i>	5	170.00	1.03	29.16	11.36	9.09	0.17
<i>Baeckea frutescens</i>	1	179.00	0.11	3.18	2.27	3.03	0.03
<i>Litsea rotundifolia</i> var. <i>oblongifolia</i>	1	122.00	0.05	1.43	2.27	3.03	0.02
<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	5	110.80	0.29	8.27	11.36	6.06	0.09
<i>Berchemia lineata</i>	3	143.33	0.41	11.64	6.82	6.06	0.08

**Table 3.** The structural characteristics of herb layer of *Microcos paniculata*-*Fissistigma oldhamii*-*Ophiopogon bodinieri* community of Xiaonanshan.

Species name	Number	Average height (cm)	Coverage (%)	Relative coverage	Relative density	Relative frequency	Important value
<i>Ophiopogon bodinieri</i>	4	20.00	5.65	23.56	14.81	15	0.18
<i>Uvaria macrophylla</i>	1	75.00	4.41	18.39	3.70	5	0.09
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	2	27.50	5.15	21.48	7.41	10	0.13
<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>	2	165.00	0.02	0.08	7.41	10	0.06
<i>Cibotium barometz</i>	1	75.00	0.05	0.21	3.70	5	0.03
<i>Smilax china</i>	2	70.00	0.85	3.54	7.41	10	0.07
<i>Chrysopogon aciculatus</i>	6	63.17	6.99	29.15	22.22	5	0.19
<i>Hypolytrum nemorum</i>	2	58.00	0.71	2.96	7.41	10	0.07
<i>Zanthoxylum nitidum</i>	2	50.00	0.05	0.21	7.41	10	0.06
<i>Lonicera pampaninii</i>	2	27.50	0.04	0.17	7.41	10	0.06
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	1	10.00	0.04	0.17	3.70	5	0.03
<i>Scleria hebecarpa</i>	2	41.00	0.02	0.08	7.41	5	0.04

District, Shenzhen, among 3 communities is mangrove forest, the species number of 20 land and offshore communities see **Figure 3**.

The height of all 25 communities see **Figure 4**.

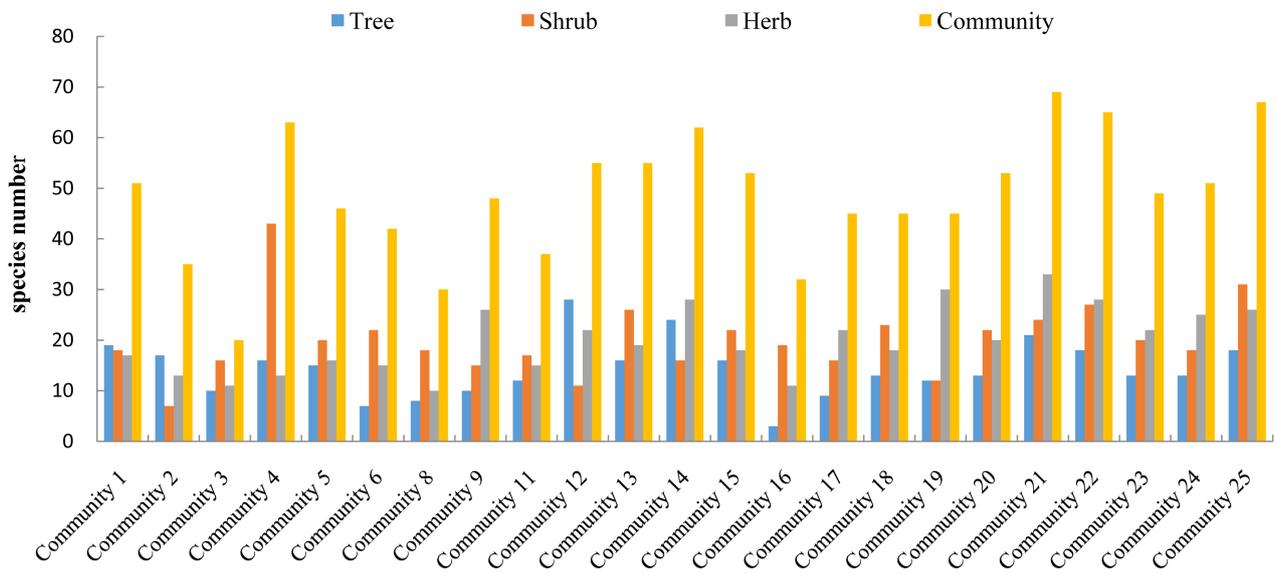


Figure 3. The species number of different layer of Baguang region of 20 plant communities.

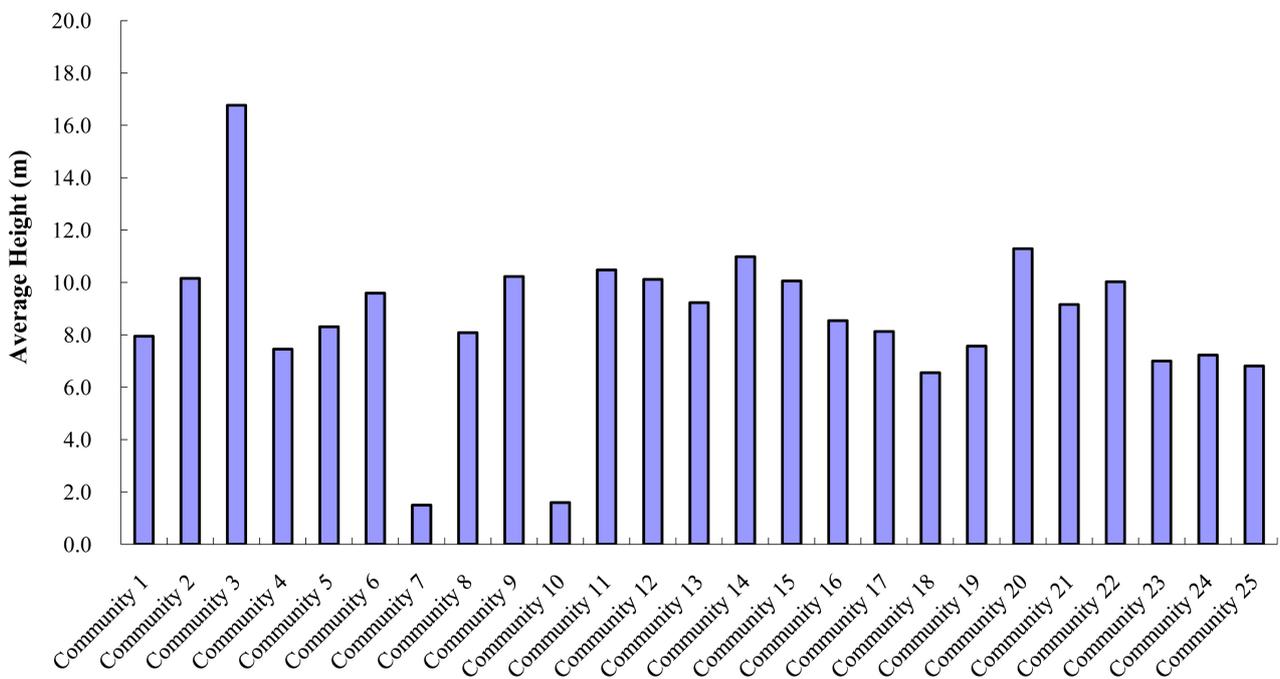
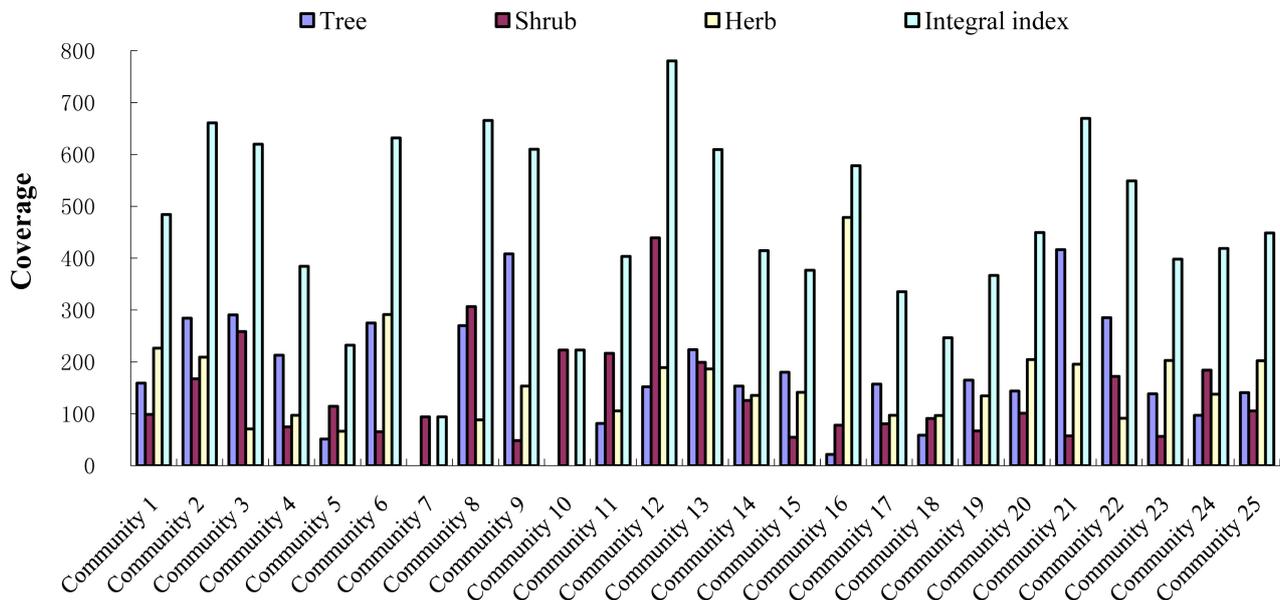


Figure 4. The average height of tree of 25 plant communities in Baguang region.

Seen Figure 3, in community 2, community 3, community 6, community 9, community 11, community 12, community 14, community 15, community 20, community 21, community 22, their height of tree were ranger high.

The coverage values of 23 plant communities (it not includes 2 mangrove forests, but some communities are semi-mangrove forest) in Baguang see Figure 5.

Seen Figure 5, many coverage values of tree layer of communities reached 150% - 300% in the community, showed that there' trees have a good development; in many communities, the integral index of coverage reached 380% - 500%.



**Figure 5.** The coverage of every layer of 23 plant communities in Baguang region.

Seen from **Figure 6**, the average values of DBH of many communities were high, many were more than 30 cm, and some were more than 60 cm.

Seen the crown diameter of all trees in 25 communities (see **Figure 7**), many were more than 6 m, some reached 8 m.

Such as the comprehensive statistic indices which calculated the values their important value was top 3 of 19 plant communities in Dananshan and Xiaonanshan Mountain areas see **Figures 8-10**.

Seen **Figure 8**, the height of community 1 to community 12 where the most of communities were natural forests, and few were semi-natural forests of Xiaonanshan mountain areas were higher than that of community 13 to community 19 of Dananshan mountain areas where almost of all were artificial forests or artificial influence forests.

The values of crown diameter in every community see **Figure 10**.

Seen from **Figure 9** and **Figure 10** can understand that DBH and crown diameter of most natural forests communities in Xiaonanshan were higher than that of Dananshan of artificial forests or artificial influence or disturbance forests, in community 1, community 2, community 6, community 7, community 9 and community 10 of Xiaonanshan, their crown diameter values were obviously higher than that of Dananshan, some crown diameter values of Dananshan were higher than that of Xiaonanshan, but, in integral situation, the crown diameter values of about 70% communities which basic were natural forest in Xiaonanshan were higher than that of artificial forests of Dananshan.

Seen from the several Figures, in Xiaonanshan which most is natural forest, not only the values of height, DBH and crown diameter of trees of 3 dominant species were more high than that of Dananshan which major were artificial forests (although 1 to 2 artificial forests breeds, such as eucalyptus breed, its height of

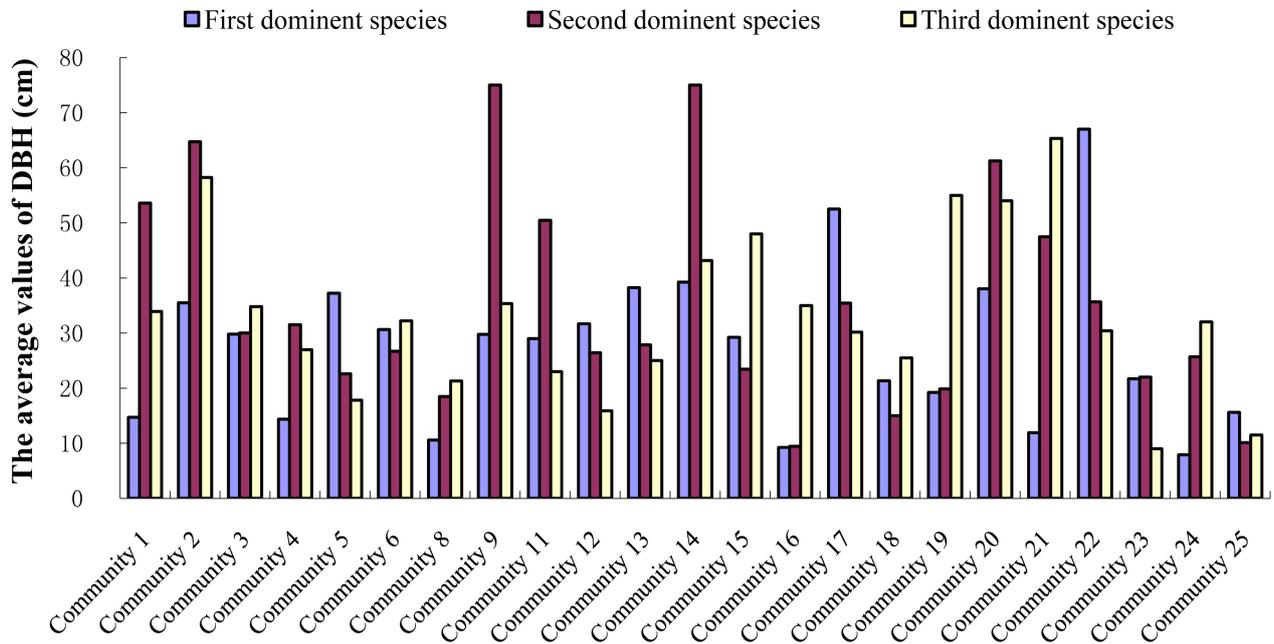


Figure 6. The average values of DBH of the first to throd dominant species 23 communities in Baguang region.

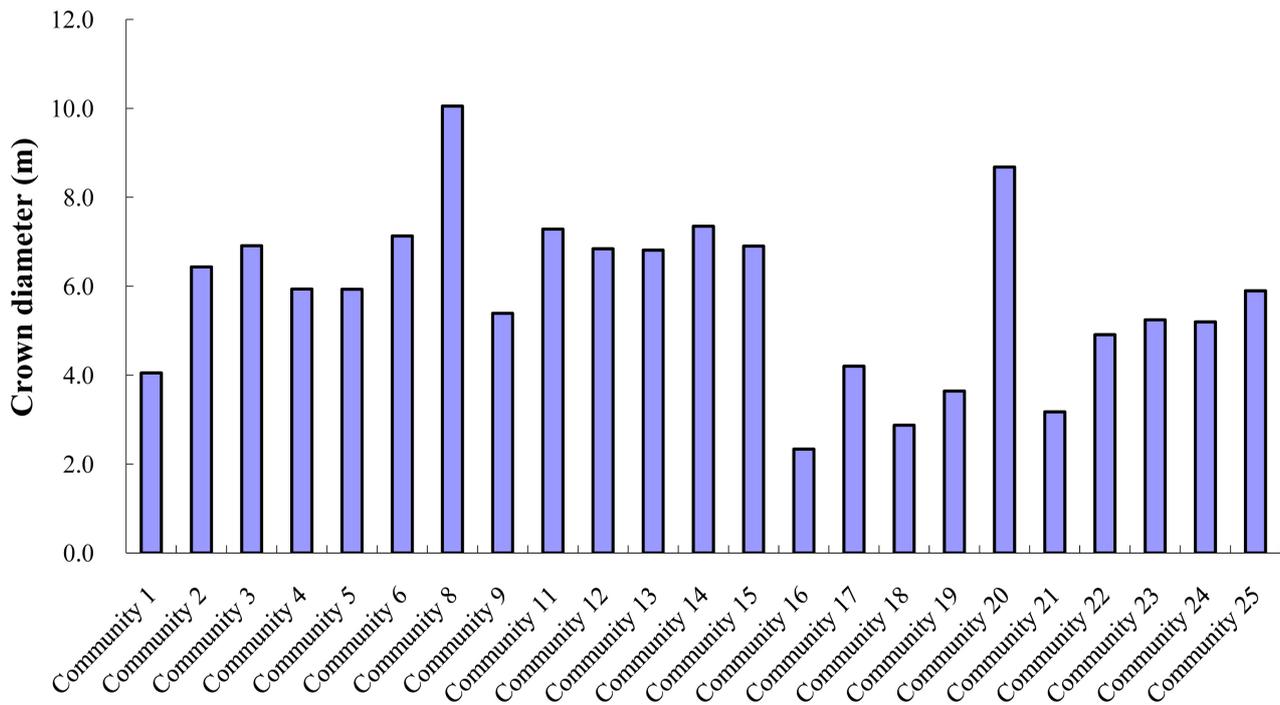
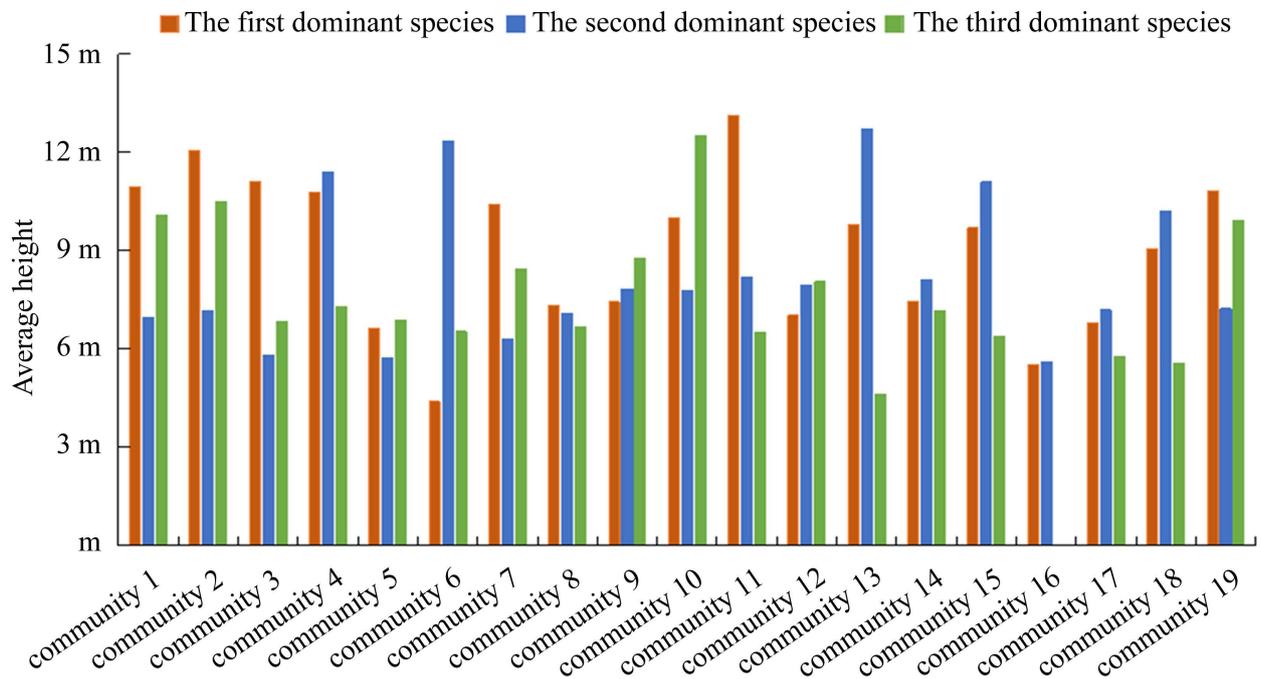


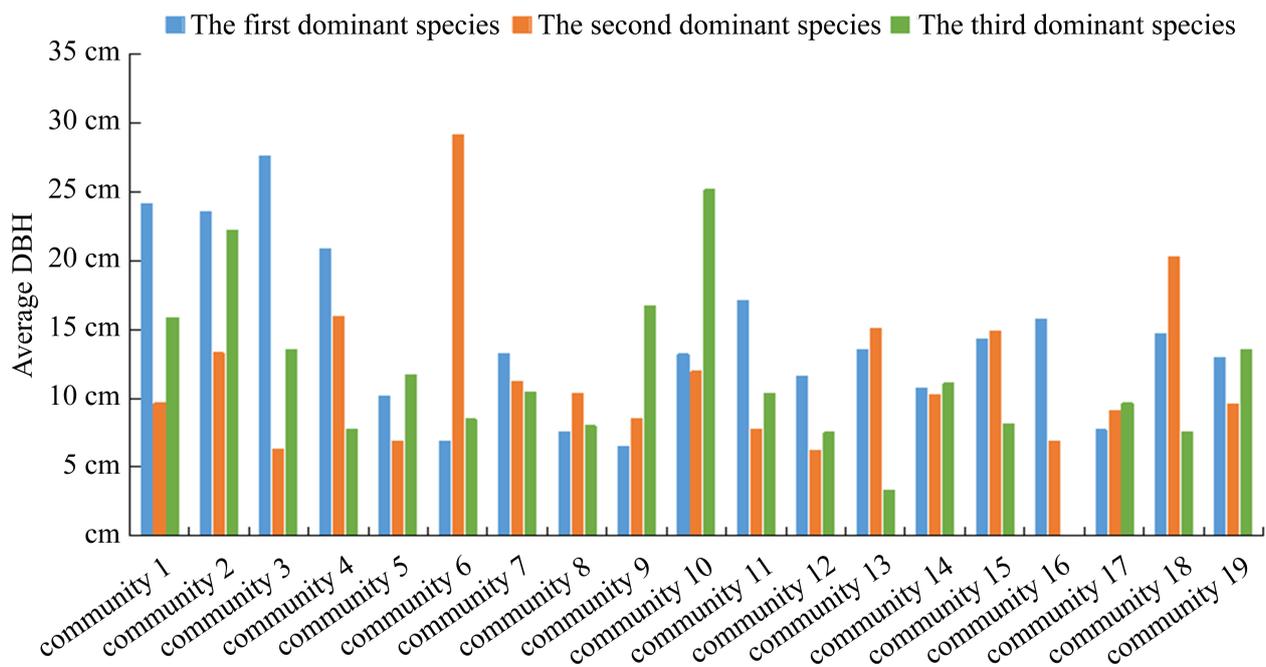
Figure 7. The values of average crown diameter of tree in all communities in Baguang region.

tree is higher), but also these indices of other non-dominant species of tree layer were higher than the latter too, showed that the growth of all tree species were more uniform, thus these communities can formed better or best structural system of community.

The coverage situation of different layer sees **Figure 11**.

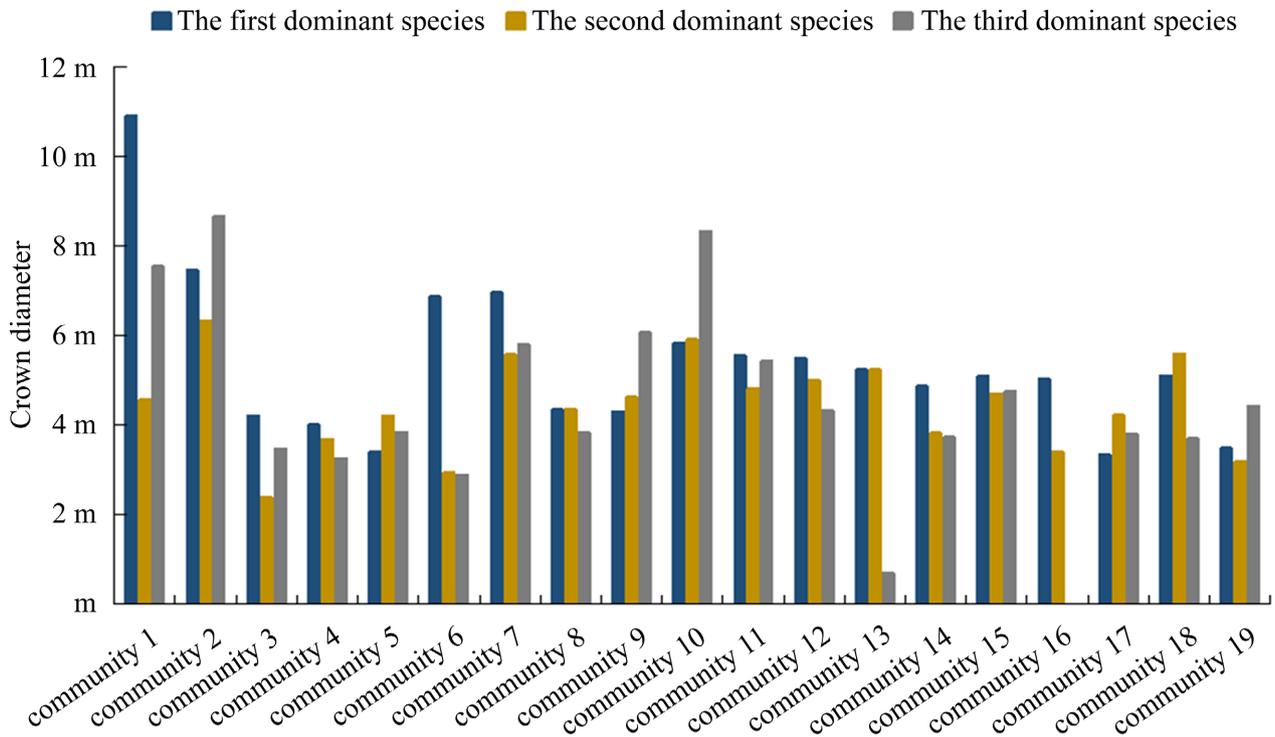


**Figure 8.** The average height of dominant species and major species in 19 plant communities of Dananshan and Xiaonanshan. Notes: Community 1 to Community 12 are the communities of Xiaonanshan mountain, community 13 to Community 19 are the communities of Dananshan mountain.

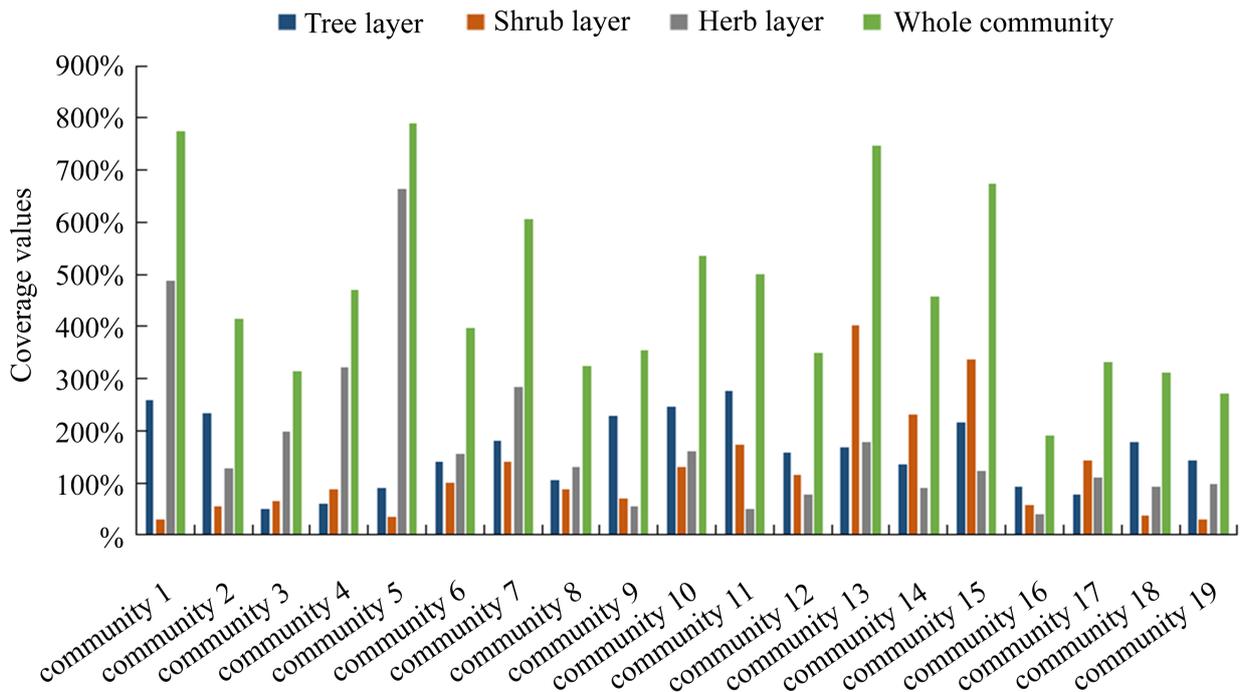


**Figure 9.** The average DBH of dominant species and major species in 19 plant communities of Dananshan and Xiaonanshan.

Seen **Figure 11** can understand, in more than 90% communities, the coverage values of all layer were more than 300%, some of them even surpassed 600%. These showed that communities of Xiaonanshan and Dananshan mountain area were dense, in the communities, there existed more laminations.



**Figure 10.** The crown diameter of dominant species and major species in 19 plant communities of Dananshan and Xiaonanshan.



**Figure 11.** The coverage values of every layer of 19 communities in Dananshan and Xiaonanshan.

### 3.2. The Quadrat Area Comparative Research Situation

In 170 plant communities of our research, the quadrat area of every community were more than 600 - 2000 m<sup>2</sup>, few reached 3500 - 7600 m<sup>2</sup> as comparative re-

search, one reached 17,500 m<sup>2</sup>, these research results showed that used the random investigated method setting quadrat, combined typical investigated method that is set 600 m<sup>2</sup>, 700 m<sup>2</sup>, 800 m<sup>2</sup>, or 1200 m<sup>2</sup> could investigated and understood number of all species in any community are without any difference, the species number of a community is not increase along with the quadrat area increase.

In the way, the research results main showed that these indices values are not higher when a total quadrat area of community is bigger than that of another community, or when the quadrat area is bigger or increase 100 m<sup>2</sup>, 300 m<sup>2</sup> or 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, its above all indices of community structure and diversity etc. shall not rise. In our researches process, using method of random investigated method setting quadrat, as long as then the quadrat area reached 600 m<sup>2</sup> (it is the smallest quadrat area in our researches), it can satisfied the demand that can investigated all species and their characteristics; with the quadrat area increase, the species number of the community is not increase again. Even if the area increase to 2000 m<sup>2</sup>, 2500 m<sup>2</sup> 4600 m<sup>2</sup> or over 4800 m<sup>2</sup>, the species number is still not increase, and the latter' species number in some communities are probably less than that of the community of smaller quadrat area, such as those quadrat area are 600 m<sup>2</sup> or 700 m<sup>2</sup>.

Especially comparative with 600 m<sup>2</sup> or 800 m<sup>2</sup> with 3500 m<sup>2</sup>, 4800 m<sup>2</sup>, or 7600 m<sup>2</sup> in different community, the former species number are not less than that of the latter, their number is same or near, and usually the species number of the community which set 600 m<sup>2</sup>, 800 m<sup>2</sup> quadrat area are more than which communities set 3200 m<sup>2</sup>, 4800 m<sup>2</sup> even 17,500 m<sup>2</sup> quadrat area.

Thereby, the height, coverage, DBH, crow width etc. indices and all diversity indices of tree, shrub and herb layers of species and the integral values of family, genus and species are similar, or usually these indices in the community which set 600 m<sup>2</sup>, 800 m<sup>2</sup> quatrat are higher than that of 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, 4000 m<sup>2</sup> or 7000 m<sup>2</sup> and 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> quadrat area of community (Huang et al., 2016a; Huang et al., 2016b; Liang et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2020).

### 3.3. The Study on Plant Diversity of Community

The all communities were carried out research on diversity, richness and evenness indices and the similarity coefficient.

The first, each research region was made the comprehensive quantitative analysis, such as the situation of family, genus and species of every community in Nanshan region see **Table 4**, among 12 communities are the communities of Xiaonanshan Mountain, 3 communities are the communities of Dananshan Mountain.

There were 119 families, 300 genera and 447 species, tree layer was 53 families, 101 genera and 137 species, shrub layer was 46 families, 97 genera and 139 species, herb layer was 45 families, 96 genera and 125 species, liana was 46 species.

The number of family, genus, the number of species of every layer in each community were made analysis, the number comparative situation of species of

**Table 4.** The number of family, genus and species of 15 plant communities of mountain areas of Nanshan region.

Layer	Family	Genus	Species
Tree	53	101	137
Shrub	46	97	139
Herb	45	96	125
Liana	28	37	46

every layer of 5 plant communities in Yangmeikeng mountain and Chiao area (Liang et al., 2016) see **Figure 12**.

Seen from **Figure 12**, in two places, the number of family of communities 1 of Yangmeikeng were less 1 family than that of community 5, and less 9 families than that of community 4 of Chiao, but community 3 was higher than the latter's. Number of genus of community 1 was lower than that of community 4. In other two communities, community 2 was less in 1 genus than that of community 4, but its number of genus exceeded 10 genera than community 5. Community 3 all values were higher than community 4 and community 5.

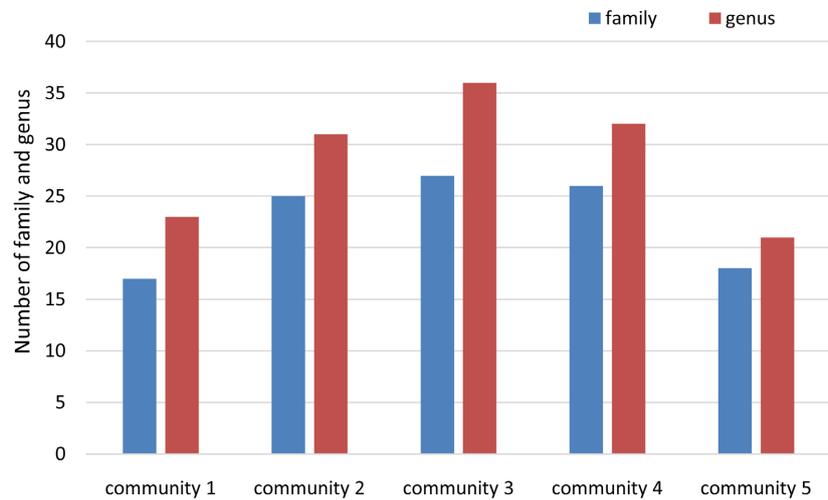
#### **$\alpha$ -diversity index**

The plant diversity of mountain areas plant communities of Yangmeikeng and Chiao (Liang et al., 2016) see **Table 5**.

Seen from **Figure 5**, the number of tree species of communities 1, 2 and 3 in Yangmeikeng were apparently higher than two communities' in Chiao, the number of community 1 was 2 times of community 5, and was 1.66 times of community 4; community 2 and 3 was respectively over 2 times of communities 4 and 5, the community 2 was almost 3 times than community 5. In aspect of shrub species number, it was also showed the advantage of Yangmeikeng communities, even if the community 1 which the species number was fewer, was only less 1 species than that of community 5; and community 2 was higher than community 5, community 3 higher than communities 4 and 5. Seen community 4, the number of species reached 19, although lower than community 3, but it is higher than communities 1, 2. Seen the two communities of Chiao, the most species of community were shrub and herb, tree species number and its proportion were distinct low, indicated that in the man-made interference community, shrub and herb shall be the main components. Therefore compare natural or semi-natural forest with artificial forest diversity, not only see the diversity index, but also should analyse the layer of species proportion and composition.

We made also analysis on the diversity indices of family, genus of every community of the Lianhuashan Mountain, see **Table 6**.

Community 5 was the more artificial disturbed forest, its  $D_f$  and  $D_g$  was a little higher than community 1, community 3 and community 4, but its  $D_c$  was obvious lower than other three communities, in aspect of family richness  $R_2$ ,  $R_2$  of community 5 was lower than community 1, community 2 and community 3, only was higher than community 4; genus richness of community 5 was lower than all other communities.



**Figure 12.** The number of family, genus ( $R_A$ ,  $R_{gl}$ ) in Yangmeikeng and Chiao, comm. 1 to comm. 3 are the comm. of Yangmeikeng, comm. 4 to 5 are the comm. of Chiao.

**Table 5.** The ecological indices of every layer of species diversity in Yangmieikeng and Chiao moutain areas.

Plant communities	Layer	$D_s$	$H$	$J$	$R_1$	$R_2$
<b>Yangmeikeng</b>						
Community 1	Tree layer	0.7906	1.7943	0.7793	2.1673	0.4992
	Shrub layer	0.8033	1.7994	0.8189	2.3376	in0.5713
	Herb layer	0.8332	1.6305	0.9100	2.1638	0.6457
	Integral value	0.9037	2.6626	0.8272	4.7057	0.6234
Community 2	Tree layer	0.8774	2.2766	0.8976	3.0474	0.5743
	Shrub layer	0.8667	2.1084	0.8427	2.7582	0.6012
	Herb layer	0.8703	1.9827	0.8792	2.9118	0.7108
	Integral value	0.9792	3.1334	0.9000	6.5832	0.6822
Community 3	Tree layer	0.8908	2.3022	0.8627	4.6873	0.5872
	Shrub layer	0.8908	2.5657	0.8793	4.6332	0.6724
	Herb layer	0.7967	1.7108	0.9024	2.0791	0.5783
	Integral value	0.9565	3.3424	0.8886	7.7312	0.7001
<b>Chiao</b>						
Community 4	Tree layer	0.3685	0.6307	0.3520	1.0453	0.3126
	Shrub layer	0.8737	1.5343	0.4964	3.8329	0.5385
	Herb layer	0.9053	0.7937	0.3194	2.0907	0.4329
	Integral value	0.9028	2.9584	0.8020	6.9689	0.6427
Community 5	Tree layer	0.4555	0.6467	0.4018	0.9889	0.3183
	Shrub layer	0.7902	0.8125	0.3388	2.1756	0.4742
	Herb layer	0.6746	0.9347	0.4495	1.5822	0.4113
	Integral value	0.8734	2.3940	0.7533	4.7467	0.6285

**Table 6.** The indices of diversity, richness and composite diversity of family, genus in every community, Lianhuashan Mountain.

Communities	$D_f$	$D_g$	$D_c$	$R_{f1}$	$R_{g2}$	$R_{g1}$	$R_{g2}$
1	0.9323	0.9758	2.8278	26	7.5020	32	8.6747
2	0.9411	0.9970	2.8643	29	8.0312	37	10.0302
3	0.9423	0.9905	2.8827	24	6.8639	33	9.1390
4	0.9286	0.9852	2.8689	21	6.2365	29	8.2238
5	0.9441	0.9967	2.8455	22	6.9225	24	7.4562

Seen from **Table 7**, the diversity values order of tree layer were that community 1 > community 3 > community 7 > community 10 > community 2 > community 6 > community 9 > community 17 > community 12 > community 11 > community 8 > community 15 > community 4 > community 5 > community 19 > community 18 > community 13 > community 14 > community 16. In the comprehensive situation, the plant diversity of natural forests of Xiaonanshan mountain areas was higher than that of Dananshan mountain areas where were major artificial forests.

In the respect of shrub and herb layer, the situation of diversity were similar to tree layer, the values were fewer difference between two regional mountain areas.

The richness indices of species of every layer in 19 communities of Nanshan region see **Table 8**.

The richness indices of tree layer of Xiaonanshan natural forests were higher than that of Dananshan artificial forests.

The richness indices of shrub and herb layer between Xiaonanshan and Dananshan were near.

We thought that if the community possessed most tree species, and more shrub species and herb species, its development and structure are better or is best community; if the community only is shrub, even herb plant species occupied most of proportion, even if its species diversity is also same height, or surpass some number than the former, but it is a damaged rather more and structure is loss, it is a community of restoration process (the region is the condition there' climate environment can allow development to trees), so when we analyze the community structure and diversity, not only need analysis the diversity indices values, but also need combine analysis the composition of species in the biological characteristics, such as the proportion of species and their individual of tree, shrub and herb, and indices of their height, coverage etc., and the ecological benefits to local region, then analyze and commented its character which what stage of succession it is and the structural level of community.

#### **B-diversity**

About 35% communities were carried out similarity coefficient of family, genus and synthetic similarity coefficient calculated, 85% communities were carried out species similarity coefficient calculated in every large region. Such as the analysis of similarity coefficient of species in communities of Yangmeikeng mountain areas with Chiao areas (Liang et al., 2016) see **Table 9**.

**Table 7.** The species diversity indices of every plant community in Dananshan and Xiaonanshan mountain areas.

Community Order	Arbor Layer		Shrub Layer		Herb Layer	
	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>
1	0.9228	2.7598	0.8248	2.2709	0.6714	1.7336
2	0.8941	2.4002	0.8423	2.3678	0.6488	1.3416
3	0.9249	2.6616	0.9055	2.6876	0.6077	1.3103
4	0.8204	2.0081	0.9204	2.8261	0.8033	1.9118
5	0.8013	1.6459	0.8742	2.3839	0.5357	0.9904
6	0.8923	2.3910	0.8529	2.1334	0.8182	2.2993
7	0.9167	2.5452	0.8538	2.5618	0.8105	1.9169
8	0.8493	2.1791	0.8367	2.3277	0.7280	1.5246
9	0.8645	2.3617	0.8651	2.4044	0.6386	1.2747
10	0.8669	2.4189	0.9261	2.8559	0.8712	2.3671
11	0.8405	2.2393	0.9271	2.9339	0.8246	2.1564
12	0.8638	2.2466	0.8718	2.5584	0.8278	0.0518
13	0.6628	1.3177	0.7761	1.8984	0.6457	1.6470
14	0.6317	1.2742	0.8326	2.0828	0.9944	0.4991
15	0.7966	2.0261	0.9170	2.9404	0.3542	0.9231
16	0.0998	0.2036	0.8887	2.5067	0.4524	1.2095
17	0.8562	2.2902	0.9432	3.0581	0.7608	1.8455
18	0.6667	1.4506	0.9060	2.7321	0.6246	1.2492
19	0.7395	1.4658	0.8278	2.2453	0.7991	1.8729

Notes: *D* is Simpson index; *H* is Shannon-Wiener index; the community 1 to community 12 were the communities of Xiaonanshan, community 13 to community 19 were the communities of Dananshan.

**Table 8.** The species richness of 19 communities in Dananshan and Xiaonanshan.

Community order	R (Odum index)		
	Arbor Layer	Shrub Layer	Herb Layer
1	4.8200	4.5147	3.0685
2	3.2863	4.8283	1.6647
3	4.4427	5.0822	2.0065
4	3.0018	5.2592	2.8854
5	1.4482	3.6897	1.2706
6	3.0086	2.9800	3.0807
7	3.9436	5.1116	2.5131
8	3.6308	4.2752	1.7012
9	3.9810	4.1966	2.3175
10	3.8793	5.6542	3.1180

**Continued**

11	3.6510	6.0039	3.6139
12	3.4975	4.5433	2.7013
13	1.6891	3.4437	2.6948
14	1.4950	2.8695	1.5537
15	2.5461	6.6609	2.0344
16	0.4926	4.3621	3.2868
17	3.5470	6.3770	2.4628
18	1.8309	5.3399	1.6700
19	1.3470	4.2150	2.6291

**Table 9.** The similarity coefficient of species of communities of Yangmeikeng and Chiao mountain areas.

Name of community	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3	Community 4	Community 5
Community 1	1.0000				
Community 2	0.2857	1.0000			
Community 3	0.2903	0.4722	1.0000		
Community 4	0.2712	0.2319	0.7333	1.0000	
Community 5	0.1333	0.1454	0.3607	0.4482	1.0000

Notes: Comm. 1 to Comm. 3 are the communities of Yangmeikeng, Comm. 4 and Comm. 5 are the communities of Chiao.

Such as the analysis of similarity coefficient of species in communities of D안nanshan and Xiaonanshan mountain areas see **Table 10**.

Seen the similarity coefficient values, most of communities composition of species each other were more different, the values were middle or lower, about values of 65% - 75% were lower, showed that in a wide scope, the plant diversity were higher in Shenzhen.

Synthetical similarity coefficient of family, genus and species in Yangmeikeng and Chiao mountain areas see **Table 11**.

Seen from **Table 11**, although incorporated family and genus genetic factors, but the most of index values of communities were lower, especially between community 1, community 2 with community 5. These showed that the difference of community composition is larger in two regions, even if the differences of every community composition in same region are also quite more; identified that the plant diversity in this large region is higher.

### 3.4. Measured and Analyzed the Plant Community's Ability of Absorbed and Reduced PM<sub>2.5</sub>

We carried out the measured researches on the relationship of structure characteristics of plant communities with the ability of absorbed and reduced PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutants in 21 plant communities of 4 Districts, Shenzhen.

**Table 10.** The similarity coefficient of species of communities of Dananshan and Xiaonanshan mountain areas.

No. of Co-mm.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1	1.0000																			
2	0.5667	1.0000																		
3	0.5827	0.6306	1.0000																	
4	0.4892	0.5366	0.5692	1.0000																
5	0.3363	0.3505	0.4615	0.4655	1.0000															
6	0.1833	0.1731	0.1441	0.2276	0.1237	1.0000														
7	0.5581	0.4956	0.5167	0.5303	0.3396	0.1770	1.0000													
8	0.5042	0.4466	0.4727	0.5246	0.3542	0.1553	0.6071	1.0000												
9	0.5210	0.5437	0.5091	0.4754	0.4167	0.1942	0.3929	0.4314	1.0000											
10	0.4672	0.4132	0.4219	0.4143	0.2982	0.1983	0.3846	0.4333	0.4667	1.0000										
11	0.5303	0.3966	0.4390	0.4296	0.3486	0.1897	0.4320	0.5217	0.5043	0.5263	1.0000									
12	0.5041	0.3925	0.4386	0.4286	0.3400	0.1682	0.4655	0.5094	0.4528	0.4839	0.6218	1.0000								
13	0.3186	0.2474	0.3269	0.3448	0.1556	0.1856	0.2830	0.2917	0.2708	0.3158	0.3119	0.3400	1.0000							
14	0.1837	0.1707	0.2697	0.2574	0.1333	0.1220	0.2198	0.1975	0.1975	0.2020	0.2340	0.2118	0.5600	1.0000						
15	0.3200	0.3853	0.3966	0.3906	0.2941	0.1651	0.3559	0.4074	0.4259	0.4286	0.4132	0.4286	0.3333	0.2989	1.0000					
16	0.1333	0.1622	0.1975	0.1720	0.0896	0.0270	0.1446	0.1644	0.1918	0.1319	0.1860	0.1558	0.0597	0.1538	0.1519	1.0000				
17	0.2500	0.2321	0.3193	0.3053	0.1905	0.2500	0.2149	0.2703	0.3243	0.2791	0.3548	0.2783	0.4571	0.3556	0.4444	0.2195	1.0000			
18	0.2202	0.2151	0.2000	0.2321	0.0930	0.1075	0.1961	0.1739	0.2174	0.2182	0.2286	0.2500	0.3488	0.4507	0.2449	0.1270	0.3366	1.0000		
19	0.2667	0.2472	0.2708	0.3148	0.1463	0.1348	0.2245	0.2500	0.2273	0.2642	0.2970	0.2609	0.3902	0.4776	0.3404	0.2373	0.3299	0.5385	1.0000	

Notes: Comm. 1 to Comm.12 are the communities of Xiaonanshan, Comm. 13 to Comm. 19 are the communities of Dananshan.

**Table 11.** Synthetical similarity coefficient ( $\beta_c$ ) of family, genus and species in Yangmeikeng and Chiao mountain areas.

Community	1	2	3	4	5
1	1.0000				
2	0.3474	1.0000			
3	0.3146	0.4633	1.0000		
4	0.3037	0.3296	0.4490	1.000	
5	0.1920	0.2250	0.4171	0.5841	1.000

Notice: 1 to 3 is the community of Yangmeikeng mountain area, 4 to 5 is the community of Chiao mountain area.

The result showed that in the 21 plant communities, in 25% communities, PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations of forest inside were 6 - 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> lower than that of outside of forests, in about 45% communities, their PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of forest inside were 20 - 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> lower than that of outside of forests, about 15% communities reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> more than 30 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, 15% communities reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> reached 40 - 46 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

In the aspect of reducing  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration value, between the sites where were different distance to forest inside with the reducing  $PM_{2.5}$  quantity were without regular, showed that different sites where were 1 m, 4 m and 8 m from outside to inside of forests all absorbing and reducing  $PM_{2.5}$  effect were near, these result showed that forest is not like that because of the longer distance to the forest outside (there the  $PM_{2.5}$  pollutants are more than inside of forest) where shall be more restarted  $PM_{2.5}$  by branches and leave, so that the concentration shall lower than that of branch and leave site of forest edge, these indicated that plant community is meantime absorbing  $PM_{2.5}$  pollutant with same quantity in unit time by means of every place, so, in a region, when the plant community area is more, its integral absorbing  $PM_{2.5}$  quantity shall be more.

The relationship the comprehensive indices such as the height, coverage, density etc. of community with absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  ability were a positive correlation, showed that the better structure of plant community are, the stronger their absorbed ability to  $PM_{2.5}$  are.

The  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution treatment experiments in closed fumigated box were carried out to more plant species, in two hours, 2 numbers of plant, most of plant species absorbed amount of  $PM_{2.5}$  were 65 - 110  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , then 4 plants, most of plants absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  amount were 90 - 130  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , then 10 plants, most of plants absorbed amount of  $PM_{2.5}$  reached 120 - 175  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ; when the treatment time was extended, the absorbed amount to  $PM_{2.5}$  were obvious increase, after treatment 4 hours, the absorbed amount was near two times to that of 2 hours; showed that building and maintaining city good plant community structure is very important to purified air  $PM_{2.5}$  pollutant.

We yet investigated, collected binding and identified plant specimens and set up the figures and literal data base, total invested collected, binding and identified plant specimens 15,600 in above regions of Shenzhen and set up the figures and literal data base, so that can check the distribution of any species and resource, and make more researches in plant taxonomy, phytogeography and evolution, and supplied proofs for local vegetation system composition in further research.

#### 4. Discussion

1) In aspect of plant community structure, Shenzhen, the order from better to weak is that natural forest > semi-natural forest > artificial forest or artificial disturbed forest; in most of natural forests or semi-natural forests, the indices of height, coverage, DBH, crow width and density etc. in tree and shrub layer are higher than more other region, even some natural forests of other regions (Zhu et al., 2004; Burton et al., 2005); even these main indices of communities are higher than that of some natural forest of tropical region (Li et al., 2008). These showed that if made a good protection to vegetation, they shall obtain good growth and development, forming well and complex plant communities structure in the subtropical geographic environment (Huang et al., 2020).

2) Above research results are better evidences and references to the argument problems on that is natural forest and natural restoration forest biodiversity higher? Or is artificial forest biodiversity higher? and or is more artificial disturbed forest higher? (Mao & Zhu, 2006; Wang et al., 2013). These research results proved that the plant diversity of natural forest or long time natural restoration forest is obviously higher than artificial forest or more artificial disturbed forest (Huang et al., 2016a; Huang et al., 2016b; Liang et al., 2016).

3) Our research results showed that the height, coverage, DBH, crown width etc. indices in the all layers of community and all diversity indices ( $\alpha$ -diversity) of tree, shrub and herb layers and the integral values are similar, same or usually these indices in the community which set 600 m<sup>2</sup>, 800 m<sup>2</sup> total quadrat area were higher than that of 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, 4000 m<sup>2</sup> or 7000 m<sup>2</sup>, even more than 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> total quadrat area of communities; using smaller total quadrat area or larger total quadrat area, they all can understand the actual characteristics and situation of community. These lots of researches further proved that according to minimum area method for vegetation survey, in subtropical region, using random investigation method combined with typical investigation set 400 m<sup>2</sup> or 400 m<sup>2</sup> - 500 m<sup>2</sup> total quadrat area in a community is correct (Zhang, 2011), or 510 - 600 m<sup>2</sup> quadrat is more stability to the investigation of plant community.

4) Compared the index values of plant diversity in Shenzhen with other some cities or some wild mountain areas, its plant diversity is higher, such as most of diversity indices were higher than that 4 communities of Lingnan Natural Conservation Area in Anhui Province (Li et al., 2007).

Xishuangbanna tropical rain forests region is one of the regions which plant communities structure are most complex, and their plant diversity are very plentiful, Li et al. (2004) studied 6 communities of tropical mountain rain forests in Xishuangbanna, compare with our researched index  $D_s$ , take Yangmeikeng and Chiao two regions as represent, the 3 communities' values of Yangmeikeng were all higher than the community 1 and community 2 of the former, but were lower than that of other 4 communities of the former, two communities' values of Chiao were obviously lower than all communities' of the former. It is further showed that the communities of Yangmeikeng which were conserved, their vegetation restoration were very well, so that the diversity were so high, and surpassed some communities of the tropical rain forest region of Xishuangbanna. And the negative effect of artificial disturbance to Chiao' communities were also reflected.

Wale et al. (2012) researched results which measured to 3 communities of Gonder, Amhara of Northern Ethiopia showed that their integral  $H$  values all were at a rather high level in this national conservation region; yet take the Yangmeikeng and Chiao as represent regions, our researched integral  $H$  values, the communities 2 and community 3 of Yangmeikeng were higher than that of the former, other values were lower than the former's. So even though the biodiversity of the regions which were protected in Shenzhen are higher, but they are still having rise space.

5) Some indices of few artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest were a little higher, but the values were not obvious difference to natural forests; and this contribution major was herb layer plants and some shrub layer plants, but the integral values of the diversity indices of natural forest and semi-natural forest were obvious higher than the former. The research showed that in the artificial disturbed forest or artificial forest, because have some little scale clearing area, so some pioneer plant species could entered the community and formed a temporarily species diversity increase, however these species major are some shrub and herb plants; but tree layer possessed biomass is obvious more, even surpass several tens times than shrub and herb layers, therefore in the respect of maintain ecosystem stability and other ecological effect have major and dominated position and so on; and then this community can natural recovery and succession, those new entered above plants shall withdraw from the community and are replaced by the original plants of the community; but this process has already caused the ecological benefits loss and ecosystem unstable.

6) Seen the  $\beta$ -diversity indices of species, the species composition of communities between each region are more difference, specially the different natural forest communities are thus, the values of similarity coefficient of species of communities are very low or lower, but the values of artificial forest or people disturbed forest are higher, these proved that in a large region, if more artificial forest or people disturbed forest, the plant diversity of there are low or obvious low. In the comprehensive situation, between plant communities in different regions are more difference, therefore it constituted a higher plant diversity level in Shenzhen city.

7) Our investigation researches showed that the distribution pattern of vegetation in Shenzhen is that natural forest occupied a little proportion, it is about 17% proportion; semi-natural forest occupied about 15% proportion, about 68%-70% proportion of city area is artificial forests in mountain area and parks etc., major species are *Litchi chinensis*, *Ferocactus viridescens*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Acacia confusa*, some breeds of *Eucalyptus*, few are *Castanopsis fissa*, *Schima superba* etc.

Thus, caused the situation that majority of vegetation communities structures are weak, and a few are bad, the plant diversity level of the places where are artificial forests are rather lower, although the integral diversity level of the city is higher, it is the contribution of natural forest and semi-natural forest. Therefore, in the region where the hydrothermal condition are so well, ought to implement the effective measures to reform most of mountain artificial forests, so that rise the plant community stability and further optimize the ecosystem, elevate its ecological benefits in absorbing carbon dioxide, purifying of atmospheric pollutants and conservation of both moisture and soil.

8) When analyzing a regional plant community biodiversity, if calculate only the species diversity, it shall understand only the species grade situation, so, if need understand the diversity situation of whole nenuitic level, not only calculate species diversity, but also need calculate the diversity of family, genus, and need

analysis combining the indices of diversity, evenness and richness of several grades of family, genus and species, and combining the component situation of every layer of community, it shall can obtain more objective and roundly evaluation.

Made the calculateIn on  $\beta$ -diversity of family, genus and species can better compare the difference of each genetic level of plant between each community. In aspect of synthetical similarity coefficient ( $\beta_c$ ) of family, genus and species, it reflected basic aforementioned the 3 grades difference situation in between each community, can reflected a large region plant diversity situation.

9) Our investigation researches showed that several alien invasive herb species, such as *Mikania micrantha*, the method which spray insecticide or cut them with local native species are error, thus methods not only cannot clean out the invasive species, but also seriously damaged local plant composition and diversity. The most effective prevention and control method is that let local plants have a good growth environment and condition, let they have a good competitive power to the alien invasive species. Our observed showed that than the local plant growth were well in the condition with without peoples disturbed, the forest was dense, the alien invasive species were not can or very few entry the community, they were in the weak prospect or complete without any number in these places. Thus, it achieved protected local well vegetation aim, meanwhile control and reduced invasive alien species.

10) Our researches proved that plant community has a good absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  capability, therefore reduce  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration in atmosphere. In former times, almost of researcher thought that plant can only block  $PM_{2.5}$  pollutants rely on the surface of leaf, and not understand they wether can or don't think they can absorb  $PM_{2.5}$  (Ji et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2016). The better community structure is, the stronger its absorbed and reduced  $PM_{2.5}$  ability is. Their reduced  $PM_{2.5}$  capability in different plant communities were scope in 20 - 50  $\mu m/m^3$  than outside of forest in instantaneous measurement; the better community structure possessed stronger absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  capability; we made the researches that used the closed fumigated treatment plants of different species, the results showed also that plants have very strong absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  ability, with the number of plant increase, the absorbing  $PM_{2.5}$  ability are obvious enhancement, then 4 plants, most of plants absorbed  $PM_{2.5}$  amount were 90 - 130  $\mu g/m^3$ , then 10 plants, most of plants absorbed amount of  $PM_{2.5}$  reached 120 - 175  $\mu g/m^3$ . So, try to protect present vegetation, and increase the area of plant community, and further reforming and optimizing the structure of plant community, can more and effectively raise the absorbing and reducing  $PM_{2.5}$  quantity, thereby achieved the goal which raise the air quality, constitute well ecological environment of city.

### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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