

1 **Fauna close to sea cucumber *Isostichopus fuscus* (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea) in**
2 **collectors on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos**

3 **Fauna aleadaña del pepino de mar *Isostichopus fuscus* (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea) en**
4 **recolectores de la isla Santa Cruz, Galápagos**

5
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12
13 **Abstract.-** *Isostichopus fuscus* is an invertebrate species distributed from Baja California to the
14 Galapagos Islands. *I. fuscus* holds significant economic value in international markets, however,
15 overfishing has led to its classification as an endangered species. Additionally, the surrounding fauna
16 of *I. fuscus* remains unknown; such information would be valuable for establishing sea cucumber
17 production sites, which rely on the biodiversity surrounding the larvae of this species. This study
18 aimed to determine the accompanying fauna found in *Isostichopus fuscus* collectors and identify the
19 most representative marine inhabitants to understand their ecological roles. Multiple collectors were
20 installed to simulate the marine habitat where sea cucumbers develop. Associated fauna was collected
21 from two different sites on Santa Cruz Island: La Fe and Las Palmas. The presence or absence of
22 species was compared using diversity indices. Las Palmas exhibited a low level of biodiversity
23 (Shannon = 1.792) and low evenness (Simpson = 0.253). La Fe showed higher biodiversity (Shannon
24 = 2.088) and greater evenness (Simpson = 0.459). Dominant species recorded included: *Polyonyx*
25 *nitidus*, *Megabalanus vinaceus*, and polychaetes. Both sites have a rich influx of fauna, which is
26 beneficial for the conservation of *I. fuscus*.

27
28 **Key words:** sea cucumber, dioecious, collector, diversity index, marine invertebrate, taxonomy

29
30 **Resumen.** - *Isostichopus fuscus* es un invertebrado distribuido desde Baja California hasta las Islas
31 Galápagos. Los *I. fuscus* son económicamente importantes debido a su alto valor en mercados
32 internacionales; sin embargo, la sobrepesca ha llevado a su categorización como especie en peligro
33 de extinción. Además, se desconoce la fauna que se encuentra en los alrededores de *I. fuscus*; dicha
34 información sería útil para generar sitios de producción de pepinos de mar, lo cual depende la
35 biodiversidad rodea a las larvas esta especie. En el presente estudio se determinó la fauna
36 acompañante que se encuentra en colectores en los alrededores de *Isostichopus fuscus*, se
37 identificaron los habitantes marinos más representativos para conocer sus roles ecológicos. Se
38 instalaron varios colectores que emulan el hábitat marino donde se desarrollan los pepinos de mar. Se
39 recolectó la fauna asociada en dos sitios diferentes de la isla Santa Cruz: La Fe y Las Palmas. Se
40 comparó la presencia y ausencia de las especies mediante índices de diversidad. Las Palmas obtuvo
41 un bajo nivel de biodiversidad (Shannon = 1,792), al igual que una baja equidad (Simpson = 0,253).
42 Mientras que en el sitio La Fe mostró una mayor biodiversidad (Shannon = 2,088), al igual que una
43 mayor equidad (Simpson = 0,459). Entre las especies dominantes se registraron: *Polyonyx nitidus*,
44 *Megabalanus vinaceus* y poliquetos. Ambos sitios tienen gran afluencia de fauna, lo cual es favorable
45 para la conservación de *I. fuscus*.

46
47 **Palabras clave:** pepinos de mar, dioica, recolectores, índices de diversidad, invertebrados marinos,
48 taxonomía.

49
50
51 **Introduction**

53 Fauna living on the seafloor requires a suitable substrate to develop properly, as the life cycles of
54 different species involve various larval stages that may last for weeks or months, depending on the
55 species (García-Sainz, 2010). This substrate is a crucial ecological component, as it attracts benthic
56 organisms in need of nutrients. Artificial collectors have enabled researchers to gain insights into the
57 colonization patterns of marine communities. Various models and sizes of these collectors provide
58 optimal conditions for the settlement of marine species, making them valuable tools for both
59 qualitative and quantitative ecological studies in coastal areas (Mendoza & Cabrera, 1998). For
60 several years, the Galápagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) and several scientists have used
61 artificial collectors to identify settlement areas of commercially important species, such as the spiny
62 lobster and the sea cucumber. The information gathered has been instrumental in developing
63 management strategies aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of these resources (Espinoza,
64 Nicolaidis, Vásquez, & Nagahama, 2006; Espinoza, Masaquiza, & Moreno, 2015).

65
66 Sea cucumbers (holothurians) are long, soft-bodied animals that have a calcareous skeleton
67 comprising microscopic spicules embedded in the body wall and is engaged (Brusca & Brusca, 2002).
68 In general, adult holothurians range between 19 and 25 cm in length. They are highly diverse
69 invertebrates, with approximately 1400 described species, including *Isostichopus fuscus* (Fajardo-
70 León, Michel-Guerrero, & Singh-Cabanillass, 1995; Toral et al. 2003; Vergara et al., 2015). They are
71 dioecious and carry out both sexual and asexual reproduction in hermaphrodite individuals in their
72 population (Herrero-Pérezrul, Reyes-Bonilla, García-Domínguez, & Cintra-Buenrostro, 1999). *I.*
73 *fuscus* (Echinodermata: *Holothuria*) is distributed throughout the rocky coasts and coral reefs of the
74 Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, ranging from Baja California to the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador
75 (Solís-Marín, Arriaga-Ochoa, Laguarda-Figuera, & Durán-González, 2009; Purcell, Hair, & Mills,
76 2012; Herrero et al., 2005). These organisms are benthic and inhabit soft substrates or rocks (Fagetti,
77 2014); they are found in almost all latitudes, from the intertidal zone to oceanic trenches (Kerr &
78 Kim, 2001). They feed on suspended organic matter dispersed throughout the seafloor as sediment
79 mixtures (Quintanal-López et al., 2013; Ruiz et al., 2007).

80
81 In the Galápagos Marine Reserve, sea cucumbers are of high commercial interest due to their high
82 demand in Asian markets, where they are valued for their purported aphrodisiac and curative
83 properties (García, 2015). When sea cucumber fishing began in the 1990s, no scientific studies had
84 been conducted in Ecuador to support controlled fishing of these organisms, leading to the official
85 closure of the fishery in Galápagos in August 1992. The following year, government authorities and
86 research centers conducted biological and population studies of *I. fuscus* in the Bolívar Channel
87 (0°19'60" S, 91°22'0" W) (De Paco, McFarland, Martínez, & Richmond, 1993). In 1999, the sea
88 cucumber fishery was reopened for two months, and increased monitoring began in areas around the
89 islands of Isabela, Fernandina, San Cristóbal, Española, and Floreana (Toral et al., 2003). In 2000,
90 significant recruitment was detected, and minimum population density values had been reached
91 (Granda & Marina, 2001). Subsequently, in 2002, a biweekly fishing calendar, a key tool for fishery
92 management in the Galápagos, was developed based on previous research. This calendar has become
93 essential for the Galápagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) and the Ministry of Environment in
94 controlling the overexploitation of the Galápagos Islands' fauna. This biological criterion was
95 formally established for the Islands (Granda & Marina, 2001). In early 2005, the Galápagos National
96 Park, the Japan International Cooperation Agency's marine research strengthening program, and the
97 Charles Darwin Foundation launched the project "Monitoring of the Most Frequently Caught Species
98 in the Galápagos Marine Reserve" to control the decline of the archipelago's fauna (Maffare-Cotera
99 & Muñis-Vidarte, 2015). As an additional measure for the management and conservation of sea
100 cucumbers, the project "Ecology and Recruitment of Sea Cucumbers (*Isostichopus fuscus*) in the
101 Larval Stage within the Galápagos Marine Reserve" was proposed in 2019. This project aims to
102 collect sea cucumber larvae using artificial collectors to repopulate areas with deficient populations.
103 It also seeks to further understand the larvae's ecology and physiology (Espinoza et al., 2019).

104 Studying the fauna in the sea cucumber larvae's immediate environment deepens knowledge of
105 specific biodiversity. This information can be used to establish potential production niches, as well
106 as aid in the analysis of climate change indicators, such as marine environment quality and area
107 overfishing. Further, monitoring locations with a high sea cucumber population is key for reopening
108 artisanal fishing; these data are available in annual reports from the GNPD (information on sea
109 cucumber population is included in censuses done by the GNPD in 2018 and 2019:
110 <https://galapagos.gob.ec/monitoreo-poblacional-de-pepino-de-mar-y-langosta-espinosa/>).

111
112 This study thus aimed to identify the fauna close to *I. fuscus* using artificial collectors on Santa Cruz
113 Island and subsequently analyze the area's biodiversity. This information can help expand the
114 understanding of the great diversity of existing marine species (mollusks, crustaceans, etc.), as each
115 plays an important role on the ocean floor and especially in the highly variable environments of the
116 Galapagos Islands. Many of these species could be used as bio-indicators of changes occurring in the
117 Galapagos marine system (Maffare-Cotera & Muñis-Vidarte, 2015). Although information on the
118 biological characteristics, distribution, and environmental role of *I. fuscus* in Ecuador exists, the fauna
119 in *I. fuscus*' surrounding environment is not known with certainty. Therefore, it is necessary to
120 identify the main organisms in the sea cucumber's vicinity to determine if the ecosystem is diverse
121 and the populations abundant, which would indicate a healthy sea cucumber habitat. This is especially
122 important considering it is one of the most biologically and commercially important species of the
123 Galapagos Islands.

124 125 **Materials and methods**

126
127 **Study area.**- The Galapagos Islands archipelago, renowned for its unique biodiversity, lies in the
128 Pacific Ocean approximately 1000 km off the coast of mainland Ecuador. Within this remarkable
129 ecosystem, our study focused on two distinct sites situated on Santa Cruz Island: Las Palmas and La
130 Fe. Las Palmas, positioned northeast of the island. The study site is characterized by a depth of
131 approximately 15 meters at both collection points, with a moderate temperature averaging around
132 19°C. Point A, located within Las Palmas, features a rugged, rocky substrate, providing an ideal
133 habitat for a variety of marine species. In contrast, Point B at Las Palmas has a mixed substrate of
134 rock and sand, supporting a different range of organisms (Table 1).

135
136 Similarly, La Fe, situated on the southwestern coast of Santa Cruz Island, presents its own distinct
137 features. The depths at La Fe range from 15 to 20 meters, with an average temperature slightly higher
138 at 19.5°C. Point A at La Fe also has a rocky substrate, mirroring the geological characteristics found
139 throughout many parts of the Galápagos Islands. In contrast, Point B at La Fe combines rocky and
140 sandy substrate, creating a unique environment that fosters a diverse community of marine life (Table
141 1).

142
143
144 **Field phase.**-This phase constituted collector installation and population monitoring, which took
145 place between the months of April to October. With previous sea cucumber surveys (using the
146 standardized circular transect method), a collector was installed in each of the four selected areas
147 within the study. Using a 5.74 m rope was used to cordon off the area where sea cucumbers were
148 found during previous monitoring by the PNGD. Artificial collectors are cylindrical structures,
149 composed of plastic threads in the form of algae or vines. In addition, their interior is filled with
150 substrate suitable for benthic fauna, which are stones found at the bottom of the sea. The collectors
151 shelter a great diversity of marine fauna. (García-Sanz, Tuya, Angulo-Peckler, & Haroun, 2011). The
152 procedure for placing the collectors was as follows: buoys were tied to the collector to keep it
153 suspended so that it could be observed at the surface, and it was also tied to a 50 kg concrete weight
154 on the seafloor to keep it still (Espinoza, Nicolaidis, Vásquez, & Nagahama, 2006). To obtain a large
155 sample of area fauna, the collectors remained on the seafloor for 40 to 45 days at depths of 6 and 9

156 m. The equipment was then removed from the seafloor and taken to the GNPD laboratory for sample
157 processing. The recovered substrate was sieved and rinsed with potable water to remove excess
158 sediment. The trapped specimens were placed in jars containing a 70% alcohol solution for immediate
159 preservation. Organisms were observed through a stereoscope for morphological identification and
160 taxonomic classification from order to genus levels using keys and marine invertebrate key manuals
161 (Hickman & Rojas Lizana, 1998; Hickman & Finet, 1999; Hickman, 2008; Hickman et al. 2009).

162
163 **Data analysis.**- The data were organized in an Excel spreadsheet, and descriptive analysis was
164 performed using PAST, a free, user-friendly data analysis software. The program allows for the
165 calculation of various diversity indices, such as Shannon, Simpson, richness, and abundance, based
166 on species abundance and distribution within the data (Moreno et al., 2011; Magurran, 2004).
167 Additionally, a rarefaction curve (Figure 1) was constructed to assess sampling effort and determine
168 whether the sampling was sufficient to capture the majority of species in the study area. The
169 rarefaction curve was generated by performing repeated random resampling of the data at
170 progressively larger sample sizes, calculating the number of species observed at each sample size.
171 This procedure was repeated several times to estimate the expected species richness as a function of
172 sample size, which allowed for the comparison of diversity between different sampling efforts
173 (Hurlbert, 1971; Gotelli & Colwell, 2001).

174 175 **Results**

176
177 The morphological characterization of the accompanying fauna of *I. fuscus* revealed many different
178 species at the two sites. Of the two collectors at Las Palmas, the COL-9M-2-PALMAS collector
179 (Table 1) recorded approximately 517 specimens from various orders and families of marine
180 invertebrates. *Chaetopterus charlesdarwinii* was the most represented, with 380 specimens (73.50%
181 of the entire collector sample). Some species were represented by just one individual, such as
182 *Telmatactis panamensis*, *Alpheus bellimanus*, *Platypodiella gemmata*, *Cancellaria obesa*, and
183 *Lysmata spp.* In the COL-3M-2-PALMAS collector (Table 2), approximately 137 specimens were
184 identified, including *Megabalanus vinaceus*, with 80 individuals (58.39% of the entire collector
185 sample). Other species, such as *Cancellaria obesa*, *Teleophry cristulipus*, *Polyonyx nitidus*,
186 *Lophoxanthus lamellipes*, and *Ophtactis savignyi*, consisted of a single individual (0.73%). In
187 summary, 654 individuals from 32 species were identified at this site.

188
189 The collector COL-6M-1-LA FE at the La Fe site (Table 2) collected 364 specimens. *Polyonyx nitidus*
190 was the most represented species, with 159 individuals (43.68%). *Cronius ruber* was represented by
191 only one individual (0.27%). The second collector, COL-6M-2-LA FE (Table 2), collected 413
192 specimens; *Polyonyx nitidus* was the most represented, with 229 individuals (55.45%). The least
193 represented was *Platypodiella spp* (0.24%), *Leucozonia tuberculata* (0.24%), and *Lythrypnus*
194 *rhizophora*, with one individual each (0.24%). The amount of *Polyonyx nitidus* specimens was similar
195 in both collectors. In total, 777 specimens and 14 species were identified at the La Fe site.

196
197 The Shannon index calculated from Las Palmas site data was 1.792. The Shannon index varies from
198 0.5 to 5.0; values greater than three indicate high biodiversity, while those less than 2 indicate low
199 biodiversity (Soler et al., 2012). Thus, the Las Palmas site had low biodiversity. Simpson's index for
200 the same site is 0.253. This index represents the probability that two randomly selected individuals
201 belong to the same species. Values range from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating an even population distribution
202 of each species (i.e., more diversity) and 1 no diversity. The study's result is close to 0, which means
203 some species were more dominant relative to the others. For the La Fe site, the Shannon index was
204 2.088, which indicates higher diversity than for Las Palmas. Simpson's index, 0.459, indicates
205 average dominance.

206

207 On the other hand, the results of the rarefaction curve were constructed by sampling two sites on
208 Santa Cruz Island: La Fe and Las Palmas. Where it is shown that at the beginning the curves overlap,
209 that is to say that neither of the two is more diverse than the other. Subsequently, a significant
210 difference is observed (Figure 1).

211

212 Discussion

213

214

215 During the study period, collectors at Las Palmas and La Fe on Santa Cruz Island collected 1431
216 individuals, of which 54% corresponded to La Fe and 46% to Las Palmas. For both sites, the phylum
217 Arthropoda was predominant (40%), followed by Annelida (55%) and other phyla (5%). In the
218 research of Masaquiza (2018), the presence of Arthropoda (32.3%) and Echinodermata (1.6%) was
219 reported in the Galápagos Islands, similar to the results found at Las Palmas and La Fe, where
220 Arthropoda was also prevalent. The high presence of Arthropoda in both studies may be attributed to
221 the adaptability of this group to the marine substrates of Galápagos, particularly in benthic habitats
222 where they are commonly found. Moreover, in Santa Elena province (a coastal region of Ecuador
223 with seabed characteristics similar to those of Galápagos), Súa (2015) reported similar findings, with
224 Arthropoda (32.3%) and Echinodermata (2%) also being dominant. This further suggests that these
225 taxa are widespread in benthic environments, particularly in habitats that are home to sea cucumbers
226 (holothurians) and other marine benthic fauna. These results are consistent across studies, likely
227 because these groups thrive in marine substrates with suitable feeding modes and ecological roles. It
228 is important to note that Masaquiza (2018) specifically focused on the fauna surrounding sea
229 cucumbers, which likely explains the presence of Echinodermata, including holothurians, in the
230 study. The sampling methods used in these studies, including benthic sampling and the collection of
231 marine fauna associated with sea cucumbers, further support these findings

232

233 The current study showed that the most frequently collected species, such as *Polyonyx nitidus* (order
234 Decapoda), were found from the lower intertidal zone to depths of 9 meters, which corresponds to
235 the sampling locations of the collectors. Hiller and Werding (2004) reported that *P. nitidus* can be
236 found at depths of up to 46 meters and prefers sandy substrates, similar to the habitat of sea
237 cucumbers. In the current study, *Megabalanus vinaceus* (order Sessilia) was found attached to rocks
238 within the study sites. The distribution of this species ranges from the Gulf of Fonseca in Costa Rica
239 (13° N) to the Gulf of Guayaquil in Ecuador (3° S) (Gómez, 2003). A significant presence of diverse
240 polychaetes (orders Amphinomida, Phyllocida, and Sipunculiformes) was also found. Méndez (2012)
241 mentions that these groups include herbivores, omnivores, and scavengers, which is why they are
242 abundant in areas with rich marine fauna on the seafloor. The aforementioned taxa were found in high
243 abundance at both sites, suggesting the diversity of the seabed, which consists of both rocky and
244 sandy habitats, and differing from other substrate types (Rivera, 2004). These areas are favorable for
245 sea cucumbers, which primarily feed on organic particles suspended in the water column, such as
246 detritus, plankton, and microorganisms. The availability of these particles is linked to the dynamic
247 nature of the sediment in these environments, where rocky and sandy substrates contribute to a high
248 degree of water flow and nutrient cycling, creating favorable conditions for the filtration-feeding
249 behavior of sea cucumbers (Zamorano, 2005; Conand, 2004). Therefore, the combination of these
250 substrate types with high availability of suspended particles likely explains the abundance of sea
251 cucumbers and their association with these areas.

252

253 The Shannon indices in Las Palmas (1.792) and La Fe (2.088) were different and lower than those
254 found by Masaquiza (2018), whose study was conducted on the same island in Galapagos, taking into
255 account that the present study was in areas more remote from the population and in less time. On the
256 other hand, Simpson's index in Las Palmas (0.253) showed that some species (at least three taxa)
257 were dominant, this is due to the easy development of these individuals and adaptability to the seabed.
258 The opposite occurred in La Fe (0.459), where there was medium dominance. These data show that

259 La Fe has greater biodiversity than Las Palmas; these results differ from those found by Masaquiza
260 (2018), since this study had a longer duration and the results were greater in abundance and diversity,
261 because they had more material and availability of boats and diving equipment within reach. This
262 information is corroborated by the construction of the rarefaction curve, which shows that there is a
263 difference between La Fe and Las Palmas. Where La Fe predominates in biodiversity.

264

265 Rivera (2004) found that being distant from populated areas and human activity promotes the better
266 development of marine species. This is particularly relevant in the case of the current study, where
267 both collection sites, Las Palmas and La Fe, were located far from ports and coastal settlements,
268 providing a relatively undisturbed environment conducive to the development of marine fauna,
269 particularly sea cucumbers. The distance from human activity likely contributes to reduced
270 disturbance and allows for more stable ecological conditions, which can positively influence the
271 population dynamics of marine species.

272

273 In Las Palmas, collecting specimens from the artificial collectors proved challenging due to the depth
274 and the influence of high tide, with some specimens being lost when the collectors were removed.
275 Despite these challenges, the artificial collectors used in this study were designed to replicate the
276 natural substrate, ensuring that they were attractive to the fauna associated with sea cucumbers. By
277 using a substrate similar to that found in the natural environment, the study was able to attract and
278 retain a diverse set of species, facilitating the accurate assessment of the benthic community dynamics
279 in these areas. As Espinoza et al. (2015) suggest, the use of artificial collectors with appropriate
280 substrate is a reliable method for studying the species that interact with sea cucumbers, particularly
281 benthic organisms. This approach also supports the hypothesis that undisturbed sites, such as those
282 studied in this research, provide more favorable conditions for the development of diverse and stable
283 marine populations.

284

285 Overall, the combination of undisturbed locations, the use of appropriate artificial collectors, and the
286 favorable ecological conditions likely contributed to the higher biodiversity observed in the study,
287 which is consistent with the findings of Rivera (2004), who noted that remote areas tend to foster the
288 development of more resilient and diverse marine communities.

289

290 Finally, the results from both La Fe and Las Palmas show that taxa such as *Chaetopterus*
291 *charlesdarwinii*, *Megabalanus vmaceus*, and polychaetes, all of which are considered biological
292 indicators, were found in large quantities. The presence or absence of these taxa helps clarify the
293 seafloor conditions with respect to sites suitable for the development and growth of species in the
294 Galapagos Islands. In the case of *Isostichopus fuscus*, the presence of these species in areas far from
295 coastal zones is beneficial for its development and conservation, as undisturbed habitats are crucial
296 for the proper growth of sea cucumbers. However, a larger sample size, using additional collectors,
297 is recommended to obtain more precise data that will further facilitate the conservation of sea
298 cucumbers.

299

300 Given the longer larval stage and slower growth of *I. fuscus*, it is clear that improving the fishing
301 protocols for this and other commercially valuable species is essential. Studies such as those by
302 Conand (2004) and Lovatelli et al. (2004) emphasize the need for more sustainable fishing practices,
303 especially in sensitive areas like the Galapagos Islands. The existing artisanal fishing calendar for the
304 Galapagos needs to be refined to ensure that it aligns with the biological cycles of *I. fuscus*, including
305 its reproduction and growth phases. A more flexible fishing protocol, with specific closed seasons
306 during the peak reproductive periods, could contribute to the long-term sustainability of the species
307 and its populations, ensuring both ecological balance and economic benefits for local communities.

308

309 **Acknowledgments**

310 I thank the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador for their support for this project. Thanks to
311 Jenifer Suárez and Jorge Vaquero, authorities of the Galapagos National Park for allowing me to
312 conduct this study in the national park.

313 **Authors contributions**

314 RF: conception and design of the study, data acquisition, RF, HN and JY: data analysis and
315 interpretation, drafting of the initial version of the manuscript and revision of the manuscript.

316 **Conflict of interest**

317 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

318

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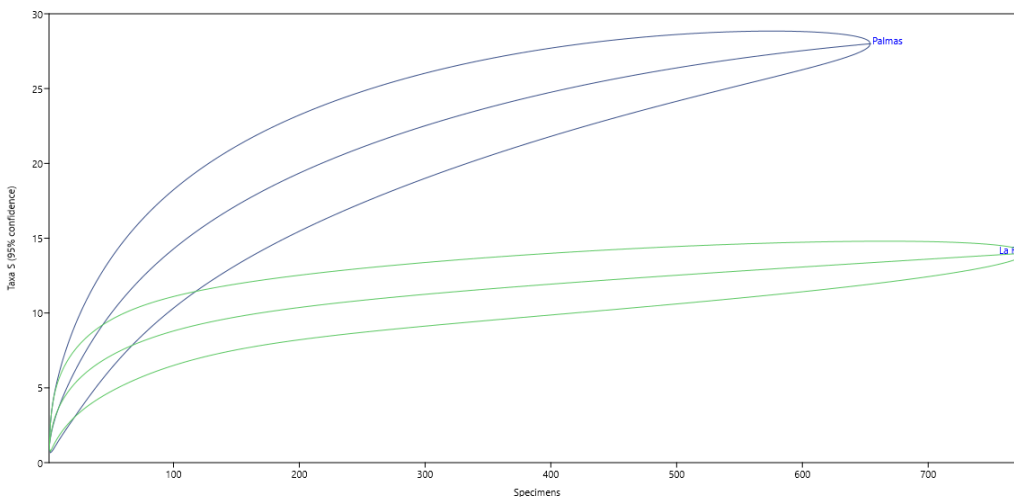
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 428 FIGURES



446 **Figure 1.** Rarefaction curve in Las Palmas and La Fe

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 448 TABLES

449 **Table 1.** Georeferenced and general characteristics of study sites.

Sites	Collectors	Concrete dead depth	Latitude	Longitude	Temperature	Visibility	Sustrate
Las Palmas	COL-9M-2	15 m	00.68474°	090.54497°	18 °C	5 m	Rocoso
	COL-3M-2	15 m	00.68415°	090.54572°	20 °C	10 m	Rocoso-Arenoso
La Fe	COL-6M-2	20 m	00.77017°	090.4175°	21 °C	10 m	Rocoso
	COL-6M-1	15 m	00.68186°	090.54605°	18 °C	10 m	Rocoso-Arenoso

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Table 2. Accompanying fauna in the sea cucumber (*I. fuscus*) habitat from four collectors in Santa Cruz, Galapagos Islands

Phylum	Order	Family	Species	Collectors			
				COL-9M-2-Palmas	COL-3M-2-Palmas	COL-6M-1-La Fe	COL-6M-2-La Fe
Arthropoda	Decapoda	Alpheidae	<i>Alpheus bellimanus</i>	1		16	
	Decapoda	Xanthidae	<i>Xanthodius cooksoni</i>	2			
	Decapoda	Xanthidae	<i>Clycloxanthops vittatus</i>	3			
	Decapoda	Xanthidae	<i>Platypodiella gemmata</i>	1		30	21
	Decapoda	Xanthidae	<i>Platypodiella</i> spp			1	
	Decapoda	Xanthidae	<i>Microcassiope xantusii</i>			13	
	Decapoda	Palaemonidae	<i>Brachycarpus biunguiculatus</i>	2			
	Decapoda	Lysmatidae	<i>Lysmata</i> spp	1			
	Decapoda	Majidae	<i>Teleophry cristulipus</i>	10	1	17	
	Decapoda	Porcellanidae	<i>Petrolisthes glasselli</i>	2			
	Decapoda	Porcellanidae	<i>Polyonyx nitidus</i>	21	1	159	229
	Decapoda	Panopeidae	<i>Lophoxanthus lamellipes</i>		1		
	Decapoda	Inachidae	<i>Stenorhynchus debilis</i>			6	
	Decapoda	Portunidae	<i>Cronius ruber</i>			1	
	Stomatopoda	Gonodactylidae	<i>Neogonodactylus pumilus</i>				3
Sessilia	Balanidae	<i>Megabalanus vinaceus</i> (spp)	47	80			
Annelida	Amphinomida	Amphinomidae	<i>Eurythoe complanata</i>	3	6		
	Amphinomida	Amphinomidae			3		
	Phyllodocida	Nereididae	<i>Nereis</i> spp	4	4	10	
	Phyllodocida	Phyllodocidae		10	2	75	123
	Sipunculiformes			6	15	37	34
	Spionida	Chaetopteridae	<i>Chaetopterus charlesdarwinii</i>	380			
Chordata	Perciformes	Gobiidae	<i>Lythrypnus rhizophora</i>				1
Cnidaria	Actiniaria	Isophellidae	<i>Telmatactis panamensis</i>	1			
Echinodermata	Ophiurida	Ophiocidae	<i>Ophiactis savignyi</i>	14	1		
Mollusca	Nudibranchia	Discodorididae	<i>Tayuva licina</i>	2			
	Cidaroida	Cidaridae	<i>Eucidaris galapagensis</i>		3		
	Negastropoda	Marginellidae	<i>Volvarina nyssa</i>	6			
	Negastropoda	Cancellaridae	<i>Cancellaria obsesa</i>	1	1		
	Neogastropoda	Fascioliariidae	<i>Leucozonia tuberculata</i>				1
	Littorinimorpha	Triviidae	<i>Trivia pacifica</i>		3		
	Gastropoda	Terebridae	<i>Terebra jacquelinae</i>		2		
	Gastropoda	Terebridae	<i>Terebra</i> spp		5		
	Littorinimorpha	Ovulidae	<i>Pseudocypraea adamsonii</i>		7		
	Arcoida	Arcidae	<i>Barbatia rostae</i>		2		
Total				517	137	364	413

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