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**ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FOREST TYPES ON TA KOU MOUNTAIN,
BINH THUAN PROVINCE**

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SUMMARY

This paper presents the ecological characteristics of the forest types on Ta Kou Mountain, Ta Kou Nature Reserve, based on four transects of total 100 plots (20 m x 20 m) set up from the peak to the foot of the mountain. The transects cross three broad-leaved forest types, namely, tropical evergreen seasonal submountain forest, tropical semi-deciduous submountain forest and tropical drought-deciduous broad-leaved lowland or submountain forest. The diversity indices of Simpson and Shanon-Wiener and the Evenness index were estimated for each forest type. The study also indicates that Ta Kou Mountain harbors a high diversity of tree species with DBH \geq 10 cm. The analysis of the forest structures shows that the two former forests are under a balanced development and human impacts on trees are minor while the last is a secondary forest recovering from strong human impacts. The presence of the tropical evergreen broad-leaved seasonal submountain forest dominated by the Lauraceae and Fagaceae indicates a special micro-environment at the highest part (500 m - 697 m) of this mountain which contributes to form its vegetational characters distinct from the coastal plat areas in the southern central Vietnam.