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Biodiversity Preliminary Investigation of Nature Reserve Taoyuan Cave	
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Biodiversity Preliminary Investigation of Nature Reserve Taoyuan Cave

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Keywords: Ecological condition; Tao Yuan cave; Scenic Area; biological diversity.

Abstract. Nature reserve is a significant base for humans to understand, use and protect nature. This study has investigated the ecological environment of Taoyuan cave National Nature Reserve. The results show that: the forest coverage here is high with rich biodiversity; wildlife resources are rich and diverse; air quality and water quality are first class of national level and the average air negative ion concentration is 18,000 ions / cm³ with less bacteria in the air, mild and humid climate, abundant rainfall, multiple microclimate types and good quality of environment. This suggests that the ecological environment of Taoyuan cave National Nature Reserve is in good condition.

As the increasing of nature reserves year by year, the research of domestic scholars on nature reserves increase as well, but most of these studies focus on theoretical researches such as problems and coping strategies in the construction and development of nature reserves in China [1-5], ignoring follow-up study on some nature reserves of good ecological environment. Taoyuan cave nature reserve is the only National Nature Reserve approved by the State Council within the region of Changsha and Zhuzhou of Hunan Province in 2002, belonging to the ecosystem of original evergreen broad-leaved Forest in subtropical humid region. In order to properly protect the natural resources of Taoyuan cave, from1993 to 2009, the author has surveyed the resources of Taoyuan cave for many times to study ecological conditions of the area and has proposed corresponding protection measures to provide information for the future management and protection of the area.

Overview of Research Area

Taoyuan cave National Nature Reserve (hereinafter referred to as Taoyuan cave or protected area for short) is located northeast of Yanling County in southeast of Hunan Province with a total area of 113,200 hm² [6], of which the core area accounts for 30.6%, buffer area 26.9% and experiment area 42.5%. It is characterized by overlapping mountain area, steep terrain, deep valleys and intercrossing streams. The annual average temperature of Taoyuan cave is from 12.3 ~ 14.4 °C; marked by four distinguish seasons, different altitudes and different lengths of each quarter, with the altitude increasing by every 100m, the temperature decrease 0.73 °C and the temperature lapse rate is greater than the global annual average value (elevation increasing by every 100m, the temperature decrease 0.65 °C); Annual average air relative humidity is 86% ~ 88%; the maximum precipitation intensity is 129.6mm • d¹ and the precipitation from April to June accounts for 42% of annual precipitation. Because of the Complex terrain and various microclimate types, it is suitable for the growth of a variety of plants ^[7].

Survey and Research Methods

Vegetation Survey. From November-December in 2008, based on An investigation report of natural resources of Taoyuan County, Hunan Ling Tung [6] and Report on Forest Vegetation of Taoyuan Cave Nature Reserve in Yanling [8], we combine the method of standard and route investigation to investigate the types and distribution of plant resources in Bluestone Ridge, Skin Pit, Oxhom Ridge, JiangXi Hollow and Yuandun xian of Taoyuan cave.

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