

Contents

Acknowledgements	I
List of Figures	IV
List of Tables	VII
List of Symbols	IX
Abbreviations	X

Chapters

1 Introduction	1
1.1 Brief description of forest cover	1
1.2 Tropical forest cover	3
1.3 Forest cover of India	4
1.4 Monitoring of forest cover	6
1.5 Remote sensing techniques	8
1.5.1 Types of sensors	9
1.5.2 Characteristics of remote sensing images	13
1.6 Role of remote sensing in biodiversity estimation	14
1.7 Role of hyperspectral data in tree species discrimination	15
1.8 Image classification methods	17
1.9 Importance of this study	19
1.10 Objectives of the study	20
2 Materials and Methods	21
2.1 Study areas	21
2.1.1 Description of each Protected Areas	22
2.1.2 Workflow	28
2.2 Data collection	28
2.2.1 Field survey and data collection	28
2.2.2 AVIRIS-NG data and preprocessing	31
2.3 Data analysis	34
2.3.1 Field data analysis	34
2.3.2 Data preparation for classification	37
2.3.3 Classification of hyperspectral data	41

2.3.4 Accuracy assessment	42
2.3.5 Comparison of classifiers	43
2.4 Spectral data analysis	44
2.4.1 Correlation between species and spectral diversity	44
2.4.2 Intra- and Inter-species spectral diversity	47
3 Results	48
3.1 Tree species diversity and distribution across three PAs	48
3.1.1 Estimation of species and rank abundance curves	53
3.2 Spectral characterization of abundant species	55
3.3 Abundant species maps and accuracy evaluation	57
3.4 Correlation of species and spectral diversity	71
3.4.1 CHVs of plots and species from classification maps	71
3.4.2 Species and spectral diversity-area curves	72
3.4.3 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity	74
3.5 Intra- and Inter-species spectral diversity	76
4 Discussion	78
4.1 Tree species diversity and distribution dynamics	78
4.1.1 Expected number of species	80
4.1.2 Rank abundance Curves	80
4.2 Spectral profiles of abundant species	81
4.3 Abundant species maps	82
4.4 Relationship between species and spectral diversity	85
4.4.1 CHV values of plots and species derived from classification maps	85
4.4.2 Diversity-area curves	86
4.4.3 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity	87
4.5 Intra- and Inter-species spectral variability	88
5 Summary and Conclusions	90
Literature cited	92
Publications and Achievements	118