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Comparisons of south Florida's seawall and natural mangrove stands reveal similar structural attributes

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Highlights

- Mangroves growing along seawalls in South Florida exhibit similar structural attributes as mangroves in natural habitats.
- Both seawall and urban-natural mangrove stands surveyed were dominated by red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*).
- Seawall mangrove stands in South Florida exhibit stand complexities comparable to natural mangrove habitats throughout the Neotropics.
- Urban landscaping and planning in coastal areas should incorporate mangroves as green infrastructure.

Abstract

Mangroves are an exceptional group of facultative halophytic trees within tropical and subtropical regions whose structural complexity is derived from the interplay of biotic and abiotic inputs, or energy signatures, which serve as a proxy for their ecosystem function.

Mangroves were originally classified into six distinct community types existing in natural

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