

ECOLOGICAL REPORT
ITA – PEM
DECEMBER 2014



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ITA
>INKATERRA<
ASOCIACIÓN

A close-up photograph of several ants on a green plant stem. The ants have dark bodies and reddish-brown legs. One ant is in the foreground, slightly out of focus, while others are on the stem above it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

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BIOLOGICAL STATION CASA ITA

ECOLOGICAL REPORT OF B.S. CASA ITA

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INTRODUCTION

Biological Station Casa ITA is located on the left bank of the Madre de Dios River approximately 40 min outboard ride from the city of Puerto Maldonado, it is passed the Rolin Island and near the port of the Station is a small stream named Carachamayoc.

METHODS

All species named in this document are acknowledged by direct (seen and / or heard) and indirect (tracks, feces, etc.) sightings. Most sightings were occasional however in some cases hikes were done with visitors to search for animals. The areas where the species were recorded were: the staff track gauge, Track gauge A, Track gauge D, Anaconda Walk, Canopy Walk and close to Casa ITA.

RESULTS:

Reptiles:

Two *Corallus hortulanus* (Photo N°1 and N°2) were recorded this month. The first one was found in the roof of the Tree House. The second was found in the swamp, in the "islands" that are form due to the presence of palm trees (*Mauritia flexuosa*). In terms of size both measured more than 1 meter but less than 2 meters. This species belongs to the family of the boas. They search for food in a wide range of heights. This being from the ground level to a little over 20 meters, but it is well known that it spends most of its time in medium altitude trees mainly in search of rodents and birds. Because of their colour (brown, cream) and also its slow movement, it is very difficult to notice their presence among the branches and shrubs species.

Walking in the swamps at night in search of amphibians an adult *Paleosuchus sp* (Photo N°3) was sighted. This specie is known as a dwarf caiman as it reaches only an average of 2 meters long. This type of alligator prefers the slow waters of dark color, features that the ecosystem of the swamp has, which makes it a perfect habitat for these reptiles. When his presence was noticed he was resting near the water's edge and when we wanted to get a better view, it noticed us and quickly jumped, dived and disappeared. Like all alligators, their main diet consists of fish and other vertebrates.

Epicrates cenchria (Photo N°4) is another boa that was observed this month. Locally it is known as a rainbow boa due to the iridescent color of its scales, especially when there is enough light. This species can be found moving across the ground or sometimes at low altitude. Their main food is rodents.

Mammals:

Overnight many mammals are active. These mammals called nocturnal, strategically evolved to not compete with others for food and space. *Dipdelphis marsupialis* (Photo N°5) is one of them and is characterized by being nocturnal, while it is arboreal and terrestrial. This was found on the trail that leads to the Canopy. Locally it is known as "intuto" or "muca" and is quite abundant even in disturbed areas. It feeds on insects, earthworms and small vertebrates like snakes. They also feed on Fruits and, eventually in the dry season, on nectar. Generally they move along the ground and climb trees in case of danger. They also have an unpleasant odor that makes many carnivores not have them in their diet.

During cleanup in the Amazonian garden a group of *Saguinus fuscicollis* (Photo N°6) known locally as pichico were observed. These are little monkeys of long tails not a prehensile tail and are relatively abundant in disturbed areas. Dense vegetation and lianas of secondary growth areas are their favorite sleeping areas, offering them protection against predators such as tayra (*Eira barbara*) and hawks. Also it is probably where a high densities of insects is found, which form an important part of their diet. Especially during the dry season where it is not easy to find fruit due to the availability of them and strong competition with other frugivorous animals. They breed twice a year. They reach maturity at 2 years. Their gestation takes 140-150 days.

An interesting species was also sighted, one that looked like a pygmy marmoset (*Cebuella pygmea*) (Photo N°7 and N°8). It was very close to a group of tamarin monkeys, we tried to find more species of *Cebuella* around but apparently it was the only one. His behavior was very quiet, we would not have seen it if we were not watching the tamarin monkeys.

Birds:

This month there was no bird ringing, but the following list presents the species that could be recognized throughout the month.

Tinamiformes:

Tinamus major, Crypturellus undulatus, Crypturellus variegatus, Crypturellus soui

Galliformes:

Penelope jacquacu, Ortalis guttata

Cathartiformes:

Cathartes aura, Cathartes melambrotus, Coragyps atratus

Columbiformes:

Patagioenas cayennensis, *Patagioenas plumbea*, *Leptotila rufaxila*, *Geotrygon montana*.

Accipitriformes:

Rupornis magnirostris, *Elanoides forficatus*, *Ictinia plumbea*

Apodiformes:

Phaethornis hispidus, *Phaethornis superciliosus*.

Gruiformes:

Aramides cajaneus

Trogoniformes:

Trogon melanurus, *Trogon collaris*, *Trogon curucui*

Coraciiformes:

Momotus momota (Photo N°9), *Baryptengus martii*.

Galbuliformes:

Galbula cyanescens, *Monasa nigrifrons*, *Capito auratus*.

Piciformes:

Ramphastus tucanus, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, *Celeus elegans*, *Celeus flavus*, *Piculus leucolaemus*, *Campephilus rubricollis* (Photo N°10).

Falconiformes:

Herpethoteres cachinnans, *Micrastur ruficollis*, *Daptrius ater*, *Falco ruficularis*.

Psittaciformes:

Ara ararauna, *Ara macao*, *Ara severus*, *Aratinga weddellii*, *Brotogeris cyanopectera*, *Pionus menstruus*, *Amazona ochrocephala*, *Amazona farinosa*.

Passeriformes:

Thamnophilus doliatus, *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*, *Formicarius analis*, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, *Dendrocincla merula*, *Myarchus ferox*, *Myarchus tuberculifer*, *Pitangus lictor*, *Pipra fascicauda*, *Lipaugus vociferans*, *Gymnoderus foetidus*, *Tityra cayana*, *Tachycineta albiventer*, *Riparia riparia*, *Troglodytes aedon*, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, *Turdus hauxwelli*, *Turdus albicollis*, *Paroaria gularis*, *Saltator maximus*, *Thraupis espiscopopus*, *Thraupis palmarum*, *Ramphocellus carbo*, *Tangara chilensis*, *Tangara schrankii*, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, *Psaracolius angustifrons*, *Psaracolius decumanus*, *Psaracolius bifasciatus*, *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*, *Cyanocorax violaceus*, *Cacicus cela*, *Cacicus haemorrhous*, *Icterus cayananensis*, *Molothrus oryzivorus*.

Amphibians:

The following species were recorded for 3 consecutive days:

Bufonidae

Bufo margaritifer (Photo N°11)

Dendrobatidae

Epipedobates femoralis

Hylidae

Hyla fasciata (Photo N°12), *Hyla leucophyllata* (Photos N°13 y N°14), *Phyllomedusa tomopterna* (Photo N°15), *Scinax pedromedinae* (Photo N°16), *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus* (Photo N°17)

Leptodactylidae

Adenomera hylaedactyla, *Eleutherodactylus toftae* (Photo N°18), *Leptodactylus didymus*, *Leptodactylus sp.* (Photo N°19)

Microhylidae

Chiasmocleis bassleri, *Hamptophryne boliviana* (Photo N°20).

Invertebrates:

A mantid was recorded again. This corresponds to a *Choeradodis rhombicollis* (Photo N°21 and N°22).

ANEX



Photo N°1.- *Corallus hortulanus*



Photo N°2.- *Corallus hortulanus*



Photo N°3.- *Paleosuchus* sp.



Photo N°4.- *Epicrates cenchria*



Photo N°5.- *Didelphis marsupialis*



Photo N°6.- *Saguinus fuscicollis*



Photo N°7.- *Cebuella pygmaea*



Photo N°8.- *Cebuella pygmaea*



Photo N°9.- *Momotus momota*

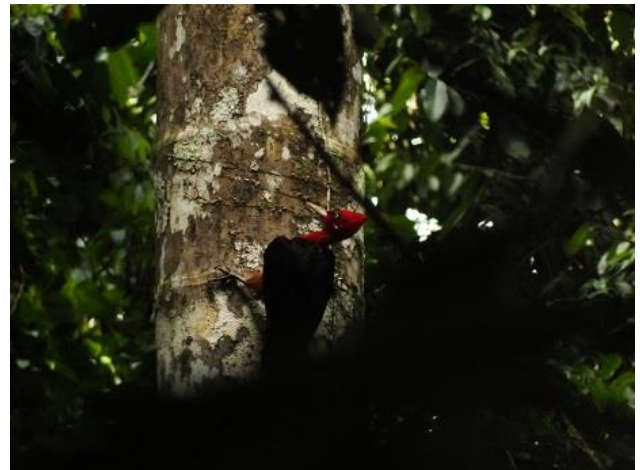


Photo N°10.- *Campephilus rubricollis*



Photo N°11.- *Bufo margaritifer*



Photo N°12.- *Hyla fasciata*



Photo N°13.- *Hyla leucophyllata*



Photo N°14.- *Hyla leucophyllata*



Photo N°15.- *Phyllomedusa tomopterna*



Photo N° 16.- *Scinax pedromedinae*



Photo N° 17.- *Sphaenorhynchus lacteus*



Photo N° 18.- *Eleutherodactylus toftae*



Photo N° 19.- *Leptodactylus sp.*



Photo N° 20.- *Hamptophryne boliviana*



Photo N° 21.- *Choeradodis rhombicollis*



Photo N° 22.- *Choeradodis rhombicollis*