

ECOLOGICAL REPORT
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ITA
›INKATERRA‹
ASOCIACIÓN

A vibrant bird with a blue face, red eye, and a spiky orange crest, perched on a log. The bird's body is covered in dark, iridescent feathers with some lighter streaks. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

ECOLOGICAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2014

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:

During the night tours we found one *Philodryas viridissinus* (Photo N°1). It was sighted on the staff trail that leads to the Canopy. It was in a shrub 1.5 meters above the ground. It differs from all the other snakes in the region by having a uniformly green dorsal and ventral, except for the chin and throat which are bluish green, the tongue is also dark blue. Martins and Oliveira (1999) reported that juveniles feed on frogs and lizards, while adults hunted small mammals.

During another walk a *Plica plica* (Photo N°2) was also found. They are characterized by being moderately large, with a big head, vertebral ridge and unlike other lizards have a tuft of spines on scales found on the sides of the neck. This large tree species is usually associated with large trees from the mainland. According to other ecological reports, they feed mostly on ants and bees.

Another species that was recorded is the *Plica umbra* (Photo N°3). This is one of the five species of the area that have an elongated middle row of dorsal spinal level to form a ridge. They normally inhabit upland forests, although some have been found in the flooded forest. Usually

they sleep in small tree trunks or sometimes on lianas and shrubs. Like the *Escrow escrow*, this also fed mostly ants.

Mammals:

Near the station, by the road that leads to the port, on a tree with many lianas a *Bradypus variegata* was observed. It was not yet adult judging by its size.

During a tour on the trail A, which goes in the direction of the river, 2 interesting species were sighted, although one more than the other. The first, by the noise in the trees it seemed to be a night monkey, but it was moving a little slower than normal for a monkey, for that reason we approached it the most we could. Luckily our logic was right and the surprise was a *Tamandua tetradactyla* (Photo N°4) at a height of 10 meters above the ground. When we were leaving that scene we noticed that we were being watched by a cat, this seemed to be an ocelot, when we the flashed it with the light it quickly retreated.

At about 50 meters from the station, along the path of the staff leading to Canopy, a group of about 6 howler monkeys, *Allouata seniculus*, (Photo N°5) were recorded. They seem to be the same that reach the canopy walkway. Tamarin monkeys (*Saguinus fuscicollis*) were also sighted in the middle of this same trail, just as in the Palmetum. Both times both of the groups had pups. They always move in small groups from 4-8 individuals (as seen in ITA).

Birds:

Spizaetus ornatus (Photo N°6) was one of the best sightings of the month; it was found perched almost at the level of the canopy and after noon on the trail that leads to the port of the station. This species usually hunt within the forest canopy, but can fly over it nonetheless rarely very high. It did not seem to be a full adult yet, this based on plumage coloration because adults present full bars usually.

We also located two hummingbird nests (Photo N°7). The first in the palm Yarina located between the dining room and bedroom, this corresponds to a nest of a *Phaethornis supercilliosus*. The second is on the trail used by the staff to reach the canopy, it corresponds to a *Phaethornis hispidus* and it was on a shapaja palm. This group of hummingbirds is characterized by using spider webs to attach its nest to the terminal portions of the palm leaves and its nest having a cone like shape. In the first one a couple of eggs were found while in the second one only one egg.

The species that are named below were observed and recorded throughout the day while performing different work, for example, work in the Palmetum, journey through the different trails and around the station.

Tinamiformes:

Tinamus major, *Crypturellus undulatus*, *Crypturellus soui*, *Crypturellus bartletti*

Galliformes:

Penelope jacquacu (Foto N°8), *Ortalis guttata*

Cathartiformes:

Cathartes aura, *Cathartes melambrotus*, *Coragyps atratus*

Columbiformes:

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

Accipitriformes:

Rupornis magnirostris, *Spizaetus tyrannus*, *Spizaetus ornatus*.

Apodiformes:

Phaethornis hispidus, *Phaethornis superciliosus*, *Glaucis hirsutus*, *Amazilia láctea*.

Gruiformes:

Aramides cajaneus

Trogoniformes:

Trogon melanurus (Foto N°9), *Trogon collaris*, *Trogon curucui*

Coraciformes:

Momotus momota.

Galbuliformes:

Galbula cyanescens (Foto N°10), *Monasa nigrifrons*, *Capito auratus* (Foto N°11).

Piciformes:

Ramphastus tucanus, *Pteroglossus castanotis*, *Melanerpes cruentatus*, *Celeus elegans*, *Celeus flavus*, *Piculus leucolaemus*. *Veniliornis affinis*, *Campephilus rubricollis* (Foto N°12).

Falconiformes:

Herpethotes cachinnans, *Micrastur ruficollis*, *Daptrius ater*, *Falco rufigularis*, *Ibicter americanus*

Psittaciformes:

Ara ararauna, *Ara severus*, *Aratinga weddellii*, *Brotogeris cyanoptera* (Foto N°13), *Pionus menstruus*, *Amazona ochrocephala*, *Amazona farinosa*, *Nannopsittaca dachilleae*.

Passeriformes:

Conopophaga peruviana, *Thamnophilus doliatus*, *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*, *Formicarius analis*, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, *Dendrocincla merula*, *Myarchus ferox*, *Myarchus*

tuberculifer, *Pitangus lictor*, *Tityra cayana*, *Tachycineta albiventer*, *Riparia riparia*, *Troglodytes aedon*, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*, *Turdus hauxwelli*, *Paroaria gularis*, *Saltator maximus*, *Thraupis espiscopus*, *Thraupis palmarum*, *Ramphocellus carbo*, *Tangara chilensis*, *Tangara schrankii* (Foto N°14), *Tyrannus melancholicus*, *Psaracolius angustifrons*, *Psaracolius decumanus*, *Psaracolius bifasciatus*, *Clypicterus oseryis*, *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*, *Cacicus cela*, *Cacicus haemorrhous*, *Icterus cayanensis*, *Molothrus oryzivorus*.

Amphibians:

In the dry season it is not very easy to find amphibians. The best opportunity is presents in the wet land, although this is now almost dry.

A frog from the Dendrobatidae family was recorded, this group of frogs are known for having venom in the skin. These frogs are also characterized by daytime habits and this was no exception, as it was found in the day. *Colestethus trilineatus* (Photo N°15), a dendrobatid, is mostly found on the forest grounds in lowland rainforest and also inhabits soils with small leaves, although it can be found above ground level. They feed mainly on ants, termites and small flies (Duellman, 2005).

Another species that is usually relatively easy to find is one that belongs to the group of Eleutherodactylus (Photo N°16). It is always seen crossing the main road from the port to the station.

Invertebrates:

This time we found a different leaf cricket from the Tettigonidae group (Photo N°17). It gave the appearance of a dry leaf with fungus. This group of crickets has a dramatic evolution since the first structure covering the wings are highly developed, developed in the sense of camouflage, as they are identical to the leaves if they remain stationary. In addition when they sense danger they stick their bodies on where they are, thus becoming part of the site on which they lie. In Palmetum an arachnid (Photo N°18) was also recorded.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Martins, M. & Oliveira, M.E. 1999. Natural history of snakes in forests of the Manaus region, Central Amazonia, Brazil. Herpetological Natural History, 6:78-150.

ANEX



Photo N°1.-*Philodryas viridissinus*



Photo N°2.- *Plica plica*



Photo N°3.-*Plica umbra*



Photo N°4.-*Tamandua tetradactyla*



Photo N°5.-*Alouatta seniculus*



Photo N°6.-*Spizaetus ornatus*



Photo N°7.- Hummingbird Nest



Photo N°8.- *Penelope jacquacu*



Photo N°9.- *Trogon melanurus*



Photo N°10.- *Galbula cyanescens*



Photo N°11.-*Capito auratus*



Photo N°12.- *Campephilus rubicollis*



Photo N°13.- *Brotogeris cyanoptera*



Photo N°14.- *Tangara schrankii*



Photo N°15.- *Colostethus trilineatus*



Photo N°16.- *Eleutherodactylus sp.*



Photo N°17.- Tettigonidae



Photo N°18.- Orb-weaver spider