

ECOLOGICAL REPORT

ITA – PEM

NOVEMBER 2015



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ASOCIACIÓN

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INKATERRA GUIDES FIELD STATION (IGFS)

ECOLOGICAL REPORT AT INKATERRA GUIDES FIELD STATION (IGFS)

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INTRODUCTION

Inka Terra Guides Field Station is located on the left bank of the Madre de Dios River approximately 40 minutes 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.

AREA OF STUDY

The following are the areas where the species were recorded: the staff track gauge, Track gauge A, Track gauge D, Track gauge G, Anaconda Walk, Canopy Walk, close to InkaTerra Guides Field Station and during the boat rides to the various field stations.

METHODS

All species named in this document are acknowledged by direct (seen and/or heard) sightings.

RESULTS

By Direct Sightings:

Small group of *Tayassu pecari*, known as “huanganas” were found by track gauge G approximately at midday. When they realize our presence started to perform their typical sound for defense with their teeth. As well, these animals release a fetid smell which they produce through glands in their back.

The group of “huanganas” was of 10 to 25 individuals. While observing quietly, all of them remain in group.

These mammals are widely distributed through the jungle in South America and Central America, however due to their condition of being species for hunting they are in vulnerable

state (IUCN)¹, and in some regions in the jungle they are very difficult to sight. This mammal is known to be an animal with high activity during the day and for living always in enormous herds, from 50 to 300 individuals which prefer mature forests with almost no human activity. The group sighted was very small and is known of their existence by footprints.

These mammals play an important part in the forest because they are dispersers and natural controllers which maintain the jungles in equilibrium. This is because of what they feed themselves with, from seeds to fruits, small invertebrates and vertebrates like snakes.

Membracidae (Photo N° 1, 2 y 3) is the largest of the Treehopper family which are distributed widely in every continent, except the Arctic and Antarctic. Walking through the different trails is possible to find these interesting insects, some of them in lianas and others in small trees and bushes. Treehoppers pierce plant stems with their backs and feed upon sap. Excess sap becomes concentrated as honeydew which often attracts insects such as ants and bees. Some species of Membracidae have developed an ant mutualism. Membracidae provide ants with food and ants act as defense patrolling around them. Like the adults, the nymphs also feed upon sap and unlike adults have an extensible anal tube that appears designed to deposit honeydew away from their bodies.

Very often around the Field Station a sound is heard which comes from a bird of many colors. *Icterus icterus*, or Troupial, (Photo N° 4), is a bird which is sighted very easily. This colorful bird has adopted this area as their territory due to the presence of the small ravine called Carachamayoc and the seasonally flooding areas. One of their main characteristics is their sedentary lifestyle which makes them easily to sight on the surroundings. These birds maintain one partner for the rest of the year. When nesting season comes they look for abandoned nests or are even capable of expel other birds to take their nests as their own. Their offspring are usually fed by both their parents.

The pattern of coloration that some birds present was developed to go unnoticed in the forest, even though they have relatively big size.

Conioptilon mcilhennyi (Photo N° 5) is a bird very easily to hear and sight sometimes from the Canopy Walkway or surroundings of the Field Station. They prefer lower levels of the Canopy of the seasonally flooding areas generally below 300 meters. Black-faced cotinga is registered frugivorous including *Brotogeris cyanoptera*, *Patagioenas plúmbea* and *Querula purpurata*²

Kentropyx pelviceps (Photo N° 6) is a day specie with high range of movement and for that is very easy to sight specially around midday when they are exposed to the few sun rays that pass through the trees in order to regularize their temperature. Their diet is composed by

¹ IUCN: Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza

² Huw Lloyd in: Bird Conservation International

small invertebrates and some small vertebrates such as frogs. As an escape mechanism they maintain a wide space from their predator and if the threat is persistent they fly away.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ANEX

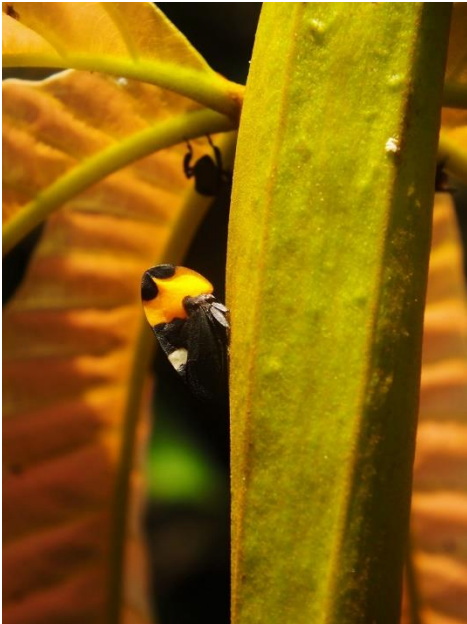


Photo N°1.- *Membracis mexicana*



Photo N°2.- Membracidae



Photo N°3.- Membracidae



Photo N°4.- *Icterus icterus*



Photo N°5.- *Conioptilon mcilhennyi*



Photo N°6.- *Kentropyx pelviceps*