

JAGUAR PREDATION ON MURIQUI *BRACHYTELES ARACHNOIDES*

So far, no natural enemy, apart from man, has been recorded for the mureiqui, *Brachyteles arachnoides*. However, the species' defensive behavior suggests it is not free from predation, the lack of records being due to a lack of studies in areas where both mureiquis and predators, such as big cats and raptors, co-exist (Galetti, in press). One such area is the Fazenda Intervalles (for a site description see Olmos, 1991), where there is both a sizeable mureiqui population (Martuscelli and Petroni, 1994) and some of the last living jaguars (*Panthera onca*) in the Atlantic forest domain.

On 1 November 1989, while conducting a bird survey near the Saibadela research base in an area of primary forest at an altitude of 65 m, I found a dried jaguar scat (recognizable by general appearance and size) composed almost entirely of the soft, pale golden hairs of a mureiqui, along with a few bone fragments. This is the first record of a jaguar feeding on a mureiqui.

Although the monkey could have been scavenged, I believe that predation is more likely. Wardens at Intervalles report that jaguars feed on mureiquis, and the marked mobbing behavior displayed by the monkeys in the presence of a jaguar suggest that they recognize it as a threat, and predation may even occur during such encounters (Galetti, in press, pers. comm.), or when the monkeys descend to the ground for drinking.

Popular tradition has it that the jaguar is fond of monkey flesh (Santos, 1984) but the only accounts qualifying this are given by Schaller (1983), who reported predation on *Aotus* and *Alouatta caraya* in the Brazilian Pantanal, and Emmons (1987) who found one *Ateles paniscus* among 40 prey items in the diet of jaguars in the Peruvian Amazon. The paucity of data on neotropical big cats does not permit speculation on their impact on primate populations.

Fábio Olmos, Parque Estadual de Ilhabela, Rua Morro da Cruz 608, Ilhabela, 11630-000 São Paulo, Brazil.

References

Emmons, L. 1987. Comparative feeding ecology of felids in a Neotropical forest. *Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol.*, 20: 271-283

Galetti, M. (in press). Comportamentos antipredatórios de quatro espécies de primatas no sudeste do Brasil. *Rev. Brasil. Biol.*

Martuscelli, P. and Petroni, L.M. 1994. Fourteen new localities for the mureiqui *Brachyteles arachnoides*. *Neotropical Primates*, 2(2):12-15.

Olmos, F. 1991. Observations on the behaviour and population dynamics of some Brazilian Atlantic forest rodents. *Mammalia*, 55(4):555-565.

Santos, E. 1984. *Entre o Gambá e o Macaco: Vida e Costumes dos Mamíferos do Brasil*. Editora Itatiaia, Belo Horizonte. 287pp.

MURIQUI CONSERVATION: THE URGENT NEED OF AN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Need of a Plan: In previous numbers of this newsletter, Sérgio Mendes and Adriano Chiarello (vol. 1, no. 2) and Karen Strier (vol. 1, no.3) revived an important issue: the necessity of human interference for the long term conservation of the mureiqui (*Brachyteles arachnoides*). Two conflicting considerations can be drawn from the two articles. The first is the urgent need of action. The species is known to occur today in a few fragments of the once widespread Brazilian Atlantic Forest. Many of these fragments are located within privately owned areas, or in official reserves that are in need of better protection. Mendes & Chiarello suggested that, at least in the case of the state of Espírito Santo, mureiquis from small private forests should be translocated to larger protected reserves with low population densities.

The second consideration is the need of scientific data to diminish costs and risks of conservation measures. For Mendes and Chiarello, translocations should be preceded by the confirmation of the size and composition of remaining groups, and accompanied by the acquisition of genetic and morphological data. Strier suggested that systematic studies on the ecology and demography of the involved populations should also be conducted for three years before and after translocations.

The suggested accompanying studies illustrate how measures cannot to be taken in isolation, and in both articles it is implicit that translocations would help us develop a long term management plan for *Brachyteles*. I agree on the urgent necessity of both translocations and a management plan, but in my opinion the latter should be our most immediate goal at the moment. There are many management