

a greater variability in sequence and part lengths than those of established pairs. At the beginning of a new partnership, duets do not follow a very regular pattern. Contrary to some earlier reports, however, in captivity new pairs do perform duets from the first day.

This text is a summary of a diploma thesis supervised by Dr G. Anzenberger and Prof. R. D. Martin. The thesis (in German) may be requested from Alexandra Müller at the address below. A full publication in English is in preparation.

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MURIQUI IN THE ITATIAIA NATIONAL PARK, BRAZIL



The Itatiaia National Park, situated in the Atlantic forest of the Serra da Mantiqueira in south-east Brazil, was created in 1937, and as such the first protected area in Brazil. Although quite frequently reported to occur in the Park over

the last decades (see, for example, Aguirre, 1971; Coimbra-Filho, 1972), concrete evidence for the presence of the mureiqui, *Brachyteles arachnoides*, has been lacking and cast doubts on its continued survival there (Fonseca, 1994). Visiting the Park in

January 1995, I found a complete skeleton of *B. arachnoides* in the possession of Prof. Elio Gouvêa. The animal had been electrocuted while crossing transmission lines near to the Park's headquarters. This happened within the last five years, although due to the brevity of my visit I was unable to ascertain the exact date, which is, however, recorded in the Park's registers. Adding to the list of new localities reported by Martuscelli *et al.* (*Neotropical Primates*, 2(2): 12-15, 1994), confirmation of the continued existence of a population of mureiquis in this Park of 30,000 ha, which is also contiguous with other forested areas, indicates yet another and significant stronghold for this threatened species.

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GERALD M. DURRELL, O.B.E, D.Sc. 1925-1995

Gerald Durrell, naturalist, writer, and founder of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (JWPT), died on the 30th January 1995. Few people have accomplished so much during their lifetime for the conservation of wildlife. The Jersey Zoo he set up in 1959 led the way for the establishment of the new role of zoos not only as breeding centres for the preservation of endangered species but as institutions which are deeply committed to the conservation of wildlife, through research, international training programmes, and *in situ* projects for reintroduction and the preservation of the habitat of the species under their care. Gerald Durrell argued that no species are difficult to