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The Muriqui in the Parque Estadual de Ibitipoca, Minas Gerais

The report of Martuscelli *et al.* (1994) recording 14 new localities for muriquis, *Brachyteles arachnoides*, inspired further efforts to locate additional areas where this endangered primate survives (Antonietto and Mendes, 1994; Câmara, 1995). Hirsch *et al.* (1994) recently surveyed the Parque Estadual de Ibitipoca, state of Minas Gerais, and recorded only three primate species: *Callicebus personatus, Alouatta fusca* and *Callithrix penicillata*. Although they did not observe capuchin monkeys, *Cebus apella*, this species had been recorded for the park previously (Drumond, 1987). Here we report on the occurrence in the park of the muriqui *Brachyteles arachnoides*, and provide further observations on the capuchin monkeys.

The Ibitipoca State Park (1,488 ha) is located in the Serra do Ibitipoca, municipality of Lima Duarte, Minas Gerais (21° 42'S; 43° 53'W) (Fig. 1). The park is comprised mainly of moorland vegetation (*campos de altitude*) and riverine forests. The forested area of the park can be classified as cloud forest, and the most common plant families are Rubiaceae, Lauraceae, and Myrtaceae (M. A. L. Fontes, unpubl. data). All the primates we observed in this study were in an 80 ha forest fragment in the center of the Park.

Brachyteles arachnoides: On 17 May 1995, at 1000 h, a female muriqui was observed on a forested slope at 1500 m altitude. It was apparently traveling with a group of three howler monkeys, *Alouatta fusca*. On 13 July 1995, at 1600 h, the same *Alouatta* group was found close to where it was first seen. The female muriqui was observed again. The group was composed of 6 to 8 howlers and the one muriqui. On 16 October 1995, a female muriqui was observed again in the same area. However, it was alone and we believe it was another individual judging by the marks on the face. Both muriquis were pink-faced, confirming the subspecies *B. a. hypoxanthus*. In addition, two tourists we interviewed confirmed the existence of "large white monkeys", which were possibly muriquis, inside the Park as well as in neighboring forest outside the area of the Park.

Cebus apella: On 14 July 1995, at 0830h, a group of eight capuchins was observed in the same area where we saw the muriquis (Fig. 2). On 6 September, at 0740 h, the same group was contacted for few minutes. On 7 September, at 1134h, one lone individual was observed in the same forest fragment.

Muriquis have a low density in large protected reserves (Pinto *et al,*. 1994; M. Galetti unpubl. data) and they are more sensitive to hunting than to forest fragmentation (see Lane, 1990). New localities of muriquis certainly add to their current distribution but, except in the Serra do Mar in São Paulo, their occurrence is restricted mainly to forest fragments. The known population of *Brachyteles arachnoides* is estimated to be approximately 700 monkeys (Martuscelli *et al.* 1994). However, if we consider *Brachyteles arachnoides hypoxanthus* as a distinct subspecies, or even species (see, for example, Rylands *et al.*, 1995), urgent plans are required to establish large protected areas for both (Mendes, 1995). Few areas support a viable metapopulation (mainly of *B. a. hypoxanthus*), and translocation programs must be a priority (Mendes and Chiarello, 1994).

In terms of conservation status, it would seem that *B. a. arachnoides* is better off than *B. a. hypoxanthus* because there is still plenty of suitable habitat in such localities as the Serra de Paranapiacaba in São Paulo (although hunting is still common),the stronghold of *B. a. arachnoides* (Martuscelli *et al.* 1994). We believe that there is a pressing need for a translocation program to save minute, isolated and probably doomed populations, similar to that being carried out by Kierulff and Oliveira (1994) with golden lion tamarins in Rio de Janeiro. However, first it is necessary to find a "safe" reserve where muriquis can be translocated and protected effectively. Nowadays most of the reserves in the Atlantic forest of Brazil are understaffed and poorly equipped to secure such protection.

Figure 1. The study site, the Parque Estadual de Ibitipoca, Minas Gerais.

More research is required to obtain a full understanding of the status of muriquis in the Parque Estadual de Ibitipoca, and to decide what is best for this isolated population. The presence of muriquis outside the Park, calls for a detailed study of the possibilities of including these neighboring forests by expanding the Park boundaries.

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News

Neotropical Primates Home Page

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Thanks to the collaboration of the staff of the library of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Madison, as from Volume 3(4), December 1995, *Neotropical Primates* is now included amongst the newsletters available in the Primate Info Net (PIN) on the Internet World Wide Web. Unfortunately, the electronic edition will lack graphs, tables, maps and photographs due to the considerable investment required in terms of time for their independent formatting in HTML, but the texts of the articles and news items, and the listings of recent publications and meetings are all reproduced in their entirety. Thanks are due to Larry Jacobsen, Sue Carlson, Melinda Carr and Ray Hamel of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Center.

Other newsletters currently available in the WWW Primate Information Network include: *African Primates*, *Asian Primates*, *Australian Primatology*, *AWIC Newsletter*, *Chinese Primate Research and Conservation News*, *Clara Clarion*, *Gorilla Conservation Newsletter*, *IPPL Quarterly Newsletter*, *Laboratory Primate Newsletter*, *Laboratory Primate Newsletter archives*, *Old World Monkey TAG Newsletter*, *ONCenter* (Oregon Regional Primate Research Center), *Pan Africa News*, *Primate Library Report: Audio-Visual Acquisitions*, *PSYeta Newsletter* (July 1995) and the *Sulawesi Primate Newsletter*.

A Newsletter for Mexican Primatologists

The Universidad Veracruzana (Parque de la Flora y Fauna Silvestre Neotropical, Instituto de Neuroetología) have begun a newsletter *Hablando de Monos: Noticias sobre Primatología en México*, about the primate studies there, first begun in 1979. The first number (January-June 1995) includes, amongst other items, articles on illegal traffic in spider monkeys (Liliana Cortés Ortiz), biodiversity in the region of Los Tuxtlas (Jorge Morales Mávil), howling monkey conservation (Ernesto Rodríguez-Luna and Liliana Cortés Ortiz) and the Isla de los Changos colony of *Macaca arctoides*. The newsletter is produced with the support of the Patronato Pro-Universidad Veracruzana, A.C. Those interested in the primatological studies at the Universidad Veracruzana should write to: Parque de la Flora y Fauna Silvestre Tropical, Instituto de Neuroetología, Universidad Veracruzana, A. P. 566, C. P. 91000, Xalapa, Veracruz, México. Tel/Fax: (28) 12 57 48.

1994 Studbook for *Leontopithecus rosalia*

The 1994 studbook for the golden lion tamarin, *Leontopithecus rosalia*, has been published by Jonathan D. Ballou, National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C. It contains a complete historical chronology of the captive population, beginning with all registered captive animals alive on 1 January 1960 (when sufficient information on arrivals, births and deaths first became available). It encompasses all known events through 31 December 1994. The studbook includes information on animal identities and locations, sex, parentage, ownership, and genetic relationships. In addition, data are presented on juvenile's parental care experience, proven breeders, hand rearing, and evidence for diaphragmatic hernias or other medical conditions. The studbook contains two listings; 1) all specimens, alive on 31 December 1994, sorted by holding institution; and 2) a historical listing of all specimens as of 31 December 1994.

The number of living animals on December 31, 1994, was 484, with a 1.4% growth rate since 1992. The number of participating institutions was 130, and the number of founders 48, with two still alive. The number of founder genome equivalents was 13.56, and 96.3% of the expected heterozygosity has been retained. The age structure of the living population and the distribution of the mean kinship in animals of reproductive age were also analyzed.