

and Luis Flamarion B. de Oliveira; and is receiving support from the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul (FAPERGS), the Pró-Reitoria de Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul" (PROPEP-UFRGS) and the Secretaria Municipal do Meio Ambiente. Porto Alegre (SMAM-PMPA).

Gerson Buss, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Avenida Paulo Gama s/n., Prédio 12125, Sala 326, 90049-060 Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

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A FIELD STUDY OF MURIQUIS IN THE CARLOS BOTELHO STATE PARK, BRAZIL

The Carlos Botelho State Park of 37,432 ha (24° 44' - 24° 15'S, 47° 46' - 48° 10'W) in the south of the state of São Paulo takes in part of the municipalities of São Miguel Arcanjo, Capão Bonito and Sete Barras. It protects an important part of the Atlantic forest of the Serra do Mar, more precisely the Serra de Paranapiacaba. The primates occurring in the park include *Cebus apella nigrilus*, *Alouatta fusca clamitans*, and the murequi, *Brachyteles arachnoides*. The first study of the murequi population there was carried out in 1985-1986 by Paccagnella (1991; see also Mittermeier *et al.*, 1987), who estimated a population of 500-800 animals, concentrated in the forest above 600 m altitude. The importance of this site for murequis resulted in the establishment of a research program there in August 1988 (Strier, 1992), initially involving the location and habituation of study groups, a difficult task in the steep, mountainous terrain, but resulting eventually in successful studies of the diet and distribution of food resources, ranging behavior, and activity patterns (Moraes, 1992a, 1992b, 1994; Carvalho Jr., 1994). A more recent study was begun in January 1994, and since then 26 months of data have been obtained on the diet and feeding behavior, ranging and daily activity patterns of one of the groups. Samples of food sources were collected during this period in order to carry out nutritional analyses, comparing especially seasonal

differences (Gomes, 1994). Data was also collected on their feeding postures and hand preferences when manipulating the food. The study is jointly supervised by Dr. Karen B. Strier, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin - Madison, and Dr. César Ades, Institute of Psychology, University of São Paulo, São Paulo. Financial support has been kindly provided by the U. S. National Science Foundation (Grant BNS9582998), the Liz Clayborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, and the Chicago Zoological Society (all to Dr. Karen Strier) and the Brazilian Science Council (CNPq) and FINEP, Rio de Janeiro (to Dr. César Ades and M. Talebi Gomes). The study forms parts of the requirements for a Master's thesis for the Institute of Psychology, University of São Paulo.

Maurício Talebi Gomes, Departamento de Psicologia Experimental, Universidade de São Paulo, Avenida Professor Mello Moraes 1721, Caixa Postal 66261, 05508-900 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

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MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE LION TAMARINS

The four International Management Committees for the Brazilian lion tamarins held their annual meeting on 28-29 May 1996, in Brasília, hosted by Maria Iolita Bampi, Head of the Faunal Division of the Wildlife Department of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment (Ibama). Over the two days the committees discussed the status of the captive and wild populations. The captive breeding program for the golden lion tamarin, *Leontopithecus rosalia*, supervised by Jon Ballou and Devra Kleiman of the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., has now reduced the captive population to a little under 500 animals, while still maintaining a good part of the genetic diversity of founders. Golden-headed lion tamarins, *L. chrysomelas*, now number over 600 in captivity, and although the populations in Europe and the USA are now stable, those in Brazil and Asia continue to grow. There was considerable discussion regarding the future of the black lion tamarin, *L. chrysopygus*, in captivity (and in the wild). The captive population now numbers over 80 animals, but the very few founders available would require the maintenance of an unacceptably large population in captivity to preserve genetic diversity. Having decided on the merits of maintaining a captive population, a metapopulation management plan drawn up by Claudio Valladares-Padua (University of Brasília) and Jon Ballou, which involves the regular introduction of new founders from the five wild populations, was presented, discussed and approved. The various teams working on research and conservation measures in the wild presented reports on their progress. Notable is the highly successful translocation program being carried out by Cecilia Kierulff (University of Cambridge) and Paula Procopio (Golden Lion Tamarin Association) for the isolated and threatened groups of *L. rosalia*. James Dietz (University of Maryland) reported on his ongoing ecological studies of *L. chrysomelas* at the Una Biological Reserve. Claudio Valladares-Padua informed on the continued monitoring of the wild groups of *L. chrysopygus*, and also the progress concerning an ecological behavioral study which his team has begun on a group of *L. caissara* on the island of Superagüi, Paraná. Guadalupe Vivekananda, Director of the

Superagüi National Park, and Sérgio Brant (Ibama) reported on the progress made over the last year regarding efforts to improve the status and infrastructure for the Park, as well as to increase its size to include further important populations of *L. caissara*. Faíçal Simon (São Paulo Zoo) resigned as co-chairman of the committee for the black lion tamarin. He was warmly thanked for his work on behalf of the committee, especially for his role in establishing the current captive population of the black lion tamarin. Alcides Pissinatti (Rio de Janeiro Primate Center - CPRJ/FEEMA) was appointed as co-chair in his place.

The 1997 meeting will be held in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. It will be organized by the Fundação Biodiversitas and Conservation International do Brasil, and will involve besides, a two-day symposium for state-of-the-art reviews on research and conservation, as well as two days devoted to Population and Habitat Viability Analyses for the four lion tamarin species.

PHVA FOR THE COSTA RICAN SQUIRREL MONKEY, *SAIMIRI OERSTEDI*

One of the recommendations made at the *Saimiri* Workshop held in 1994 was to have a second meeting in the area where they live. From 5-7 June 1995, 48 people met at the Manuel Antonio National Park, on the Central Pacific coast of Costa Rica, to discuss the status and recommendations for the conservation of the species. Five working groups were formed: *Biology* - discussed the biological data available and ran the VORTEX population simulation for the species; *Distribution* - analyzed the past and current distribution of the species and mapped the areas of remaining *Saimiri* populations; *Translocation and Captive Breeding* - developed protocols in case these measures were necessary for the survival of the species, helped by Dr. Cheryl Asa, St. Louis Zoo, and Dr. Larry Williams, University of South Alabama; *Public Education* - discussed the need for an education program; and *Community* - analyzed current and future community actions, with the collaboration of local authorities and five campesinos.

The final report is still being prepared. It includes recommendations for more specific research to support an adequate management of the species. The most urgent topics were given as: 1) Determination of the distribution and demographics of the populations of the two subspecies, *S. o. oerstedii* and *S. o. citrinellus*; 2) the establishment of a public education program directed to the local communities and tourists; and 3) the establishment of a community action plan to protect the species. Dr. Ulysses Seal, Chairman of the IUCN/SSC