Both these bank similarity scores are lower than black water rivers of similar width previously considered in Amazonian Brazil (Ayres and Clutton-Brock, 1992). Given the provisos that we have sampled extensively only in one area, and that anecdotal reports suggest *Chiropotes* may occur in Bolivia further east, it appears that the Guaporé/Iteñez represents a natural boundary for several species of primate in this region. Previously published distributional information regarding these species, and the hypothetical range maps drawn up are in agreement with this observation (Ayres, 1989; Emmons, 1990; Hershkovitz, 1984, 1985, 1987). Whether these species' distributions are limited purely by the physical river boundary, which seems dubious given the relatively large size of some of the taxa halted and the narrowness of the river, or if vegetational differences in the two banks also play an important role remains to be investigated.

Reports from local Brazilian inhabitants of a primate species known locally as "macaco barrigudo", suggest that the interior forests of this region of Brazil also include woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha*). This suggestion underlines the need for further primate surveys in this region, especially on the Brazilian bank where primate diversity appears to be high and includes several threatened species (*Chiropotes albinasus*, *Ateles Chamek*, and possibly *Lagothrix lagotricha*).

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Platyrrhines in Pimenta Bueno, Rondônia, Brazil

The Pimenta Bueno Municipal Park (*Parque Natural Municipal de Pimenta Bueno*) is part of one of the largest and best preserved fragments of native forest habitat in the vicinity of the BR-364 federal highway; pivot of colonisation in southwestern Amazonia, in southern Rondônia (Fig. 1), but an area where the primate fauna is still relatively poorly known (de Vivo, 1985). The park was visited during four days at the beginning of June 1996 as part of a survey of the state's mammalian

fauna. Despite its relatively small size (the park itself covers 532 ha, and adjoining areas of native habitat encompass a further 500 ha), the forest apparently still contains a number of large mammals, including tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*) and atelines (*Alouatta seniculus* and *Ateles chamek*), which suggests that hunting pressure is low (see e.g., Peres, 1990).

Ateles chamek is relatively common is Rondônia, but Pimenta Bueno is one of only a handful of sites at which *Alouatta* has been recorded in the state (de Vivo, 1985; Ferrari and Lopes, 1992; Ferrari *et al.*, 1995, 1996). The factors that determine the "patchy" distribution of howler monkeys in southwestern Amazonia (Ferrari *et al.*, 1996) are still unclear, but it is hoped that data currently being collected will throw some light onto this intriguing question.

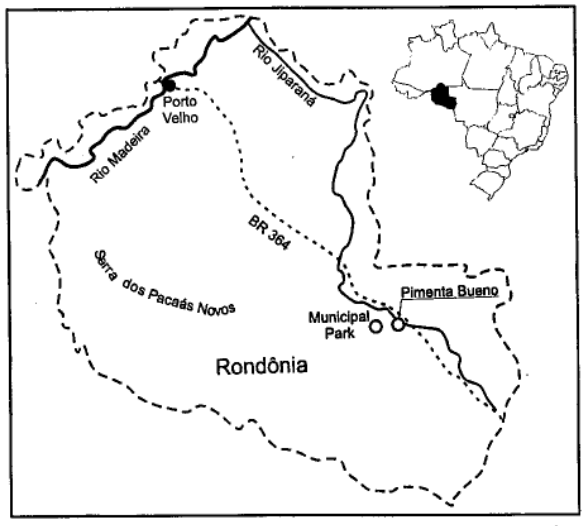

Figure 1. Rondônia, southwestern Brazilian Amazonia, showing Pimenta Bueno and other sites mentioned in the text.

Saguinus fuscicollis weddelli, the most widespread of the numerous subspecies of saddle-black tamarins, was observed at Pimenta Bueno, but no evidence was found of the occurrence of marmosets (*Callithrix* sp.) in either the park or surrounding areas. Their behaviour (especially bark-gouging) and habitat preferences make marmosets relatively conspicuous, and as there were no reports from local residents, it seems reasonable to conclude that these monkeys are absent from this region. While the geographic range of *S. f. weddelli* is thus extended further south and east, that of *Callithrix* is once again reduced. The available evidence now indicates that *S. f. weddelli* occurs throughout Rondônia west of the Rio Jiparaná, and that the range of *Callithrix* is restricted to a much smaller northern portion of this area, a situation exactly opposite to that indicated by the data available prior to 1995 (see Rylands *et al.*, 1993).

Three other platyrrhines were observed in the park, and a fourth (*Pithecia* sp.) was reported by local residents, bringing the total number of diurnal species at the site to seven. Mixed groups of tufted capuchins (*Cebus apella*) and squirrel monkeys, apparently *Saimiri boliviensis*, were encountered on a number of occasions. The occurrence of *S. boliviensis* at this site was unexpected, given that *S. ustus* has been recorded at all others in Rondônia south of the Madeira (Hershkovitz, 1984; Ferrari and Lopes, 1992; Ferrari *et al.*, 1995).

A group of titi monkeys was also observed in the park. The animals were certainly not members of the distinctively brown-coloured *Callicebus brunneus*, the species found at other sites in Rondônia, west of the Jiparaná (Hershkovitz, 1990; Ferrari and Lopes, 1992; Ferrari *et al.*, 1995), but were greyish in colour similar to *Callicebus moloch*, the distribution of which has previously been restricted to the east of the Jiparaná/ Madeira rivers (ibid.).

Overall, these records from Pimenta Bueno would appear to indicate that important differences may exist in the platyrrhine faunas of southern and northern Rondônia (west of the Rio Jiparaná), although the exact nature of these differences is still unclear. If, as suggested above in the case of *Callithrix*, factors such as altituide and related habitat preferences are relevant, then the Serra dos Pacaás Novos, which rises to over 1,000 m above sea level and virtually bisects the state (Fig. 1), may play a fundamental role in these differences.

Clearly, the zoogeography of platyrrhines in southwestern Brazilian Amazonia is more complex than had been assumed previously. Additional data are required not only for the identification of all the region's primate species and the definition of their geographic ranges, but also for a more systematic analysis of the factors determining their distribution. To what extent it will be possible to collect these data remains to be seen, however, given the continuing onslaught of loggers and ranchers in the state of Rondônia and neighbouring areas of Amazonas and Mato Grosso.

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News

IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group Triennial Report 1994-1996

The Primate Specialist Group has had a very successful triennium, during which it consolidated the reorganization that began in 1992, started a new publication series, and saw a substantial increase in fundraising success. Some of the highlights of the past three years are briefly summarized here.

First of all, the group now numbers some 250 individuals from more than 30 countries. These are divided into four major geographic regions representing the principal areas in which nonhuman primates live: the Neotropical region, Africa, Asia and Madagascar. Given the large size and many activities of the group, the decision was reached to undertake substantial decentralization during a meeting of the group at the International Primatological Society Congress in Strasbourg, August 1992. This restructuring has been underway for the past four years, and is now almost complete, with Vice-Chairs and regional newsletters in place in each region. Dr. Anthony Rylands from Brazil and Dr. Ernesto Rodríguez-Luna of Mexico are Co-Chairs of the Neotropical Section, Dr. Ardith Eudey chairs the Asian Section, Dr. Thomas Butynski of the Atlanta Zoo (and based in Nairobi) chairs the African Section, each producing newsletters for their respective regions. Dr. Jörg Ganzhorn of the German Primate Center, has taken over the editing of the newsletter for the Madagascar Section, *Lemur News*, and is considering taking over the Vice-Chair position of this section as well. Publication of *Asian Primates* has been underway since 1991, *Neotropical Primates* and *Lemur News* began in 1993, and *African Primates* was inaugurated in 1995.

In addition, after serious consideration of the role of our journal, *Primate Conservation*, which had been backlogged for several years, we decided that there was a continued role for this publication, and it was subsequently brought up to date with the production of three full issues in August, 1996. Editing of the journal has now been turned over to Dr. Anthony Rylands, and the next issue (No.17) is expected by the end of 1996.

The fourth of our PSG Action Plans was also produced during this period, this one being the updated version of the *Action Plan for African Primate Conservation: 1986-90*. The first African Action Plan, published in 1986, was the first of the SSC Action Plans in their modern form. Dr. John Oates wrote the original plan and prepared the updated 1996 version as well. A draft of a second action plan, *Mesoamerican Primates*, has been completed and should be published shortly. It has been prepared by Ernesto Rodríguez-Luna, Liliana Cortés-Ortiz, Russell Mittermeier and Anthony Rylands.

With support from Conservation International, we have also launched a new *Tropical Field Guide Series*, the first few of which will be dedicated to primates. The first volume, *Lemurs of Madagascar*, has already appeared, and other volumes are in preparation for primates of the Guianas, the Atlantic forest of eastern Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Vietnam, with an additional volume on marmosets and tamarins. The purpose of these books is to summarize available information in a ready-to-use format, with a particular eye towards ecotourism, the idea being to stimulate a tradition of life-listing and primate-watching comparable to that for birds.

The PSG also participated in the analysis of all primate species using the new Red List criteria, published in the