

CROSSING THE GREAT BARRIER: *CALLICEBUS CUPREUS DISCOLOR* NORTH OF THE NAPO RIVER

On 30 May, 1996, at approximately 07:00 hrs, we observed a pair of *Callicebus cupreus discolor* foraging while perched on the axil of a *Euterpes edulis* palm in the Sucusari Tributary, off the north bank of the Río Napo (3°15'S; 73°05'W - Fig. 1). The subspecies was easily discernible by the thick, continuous, white eyebrows. As we approached closer the pair fled into the forest followed by three other individuals, at least two of which appeared to be subadult based on their smaller size. There were five people in our party, all of whom saw the monkeys: LPV, DMB, Gaspar Pistango, J. Shannette, and B. Weinberg. Other naturalists working in the area indicated later that they had also seen *C. c. discolor* in the region (Angel Ocmín-Petit and Roldán Hidalgo-Pezo, pers. comm.).

Aquino and Encarnación (1994) indicated that this subspecies occurs south and west of the Río Napo and west of the Río Ucayali. East of the Ucayali, this species is replaced by *C. caligatus* in the northern portion of its range and by *C. cupreus cupreus* in the middle and southern portion of its range. Along the Napo *C. c. discolor* is sympatric with *C. torquatus* as far as the Río Nanay. The Nanay marks the southern distributional limit of *C. torquatus*. Our observations suggest that *C. c. discolor* is also sympatric with *C. torquatus* in at least some regions north of the Napo. The fact that we saw sub-adults within the family group suggests that *C. c. discolor* is breeding north of the Napo and suggests it may be widespread between the Ríos Napo and Putumayo, on the Colombian border. We

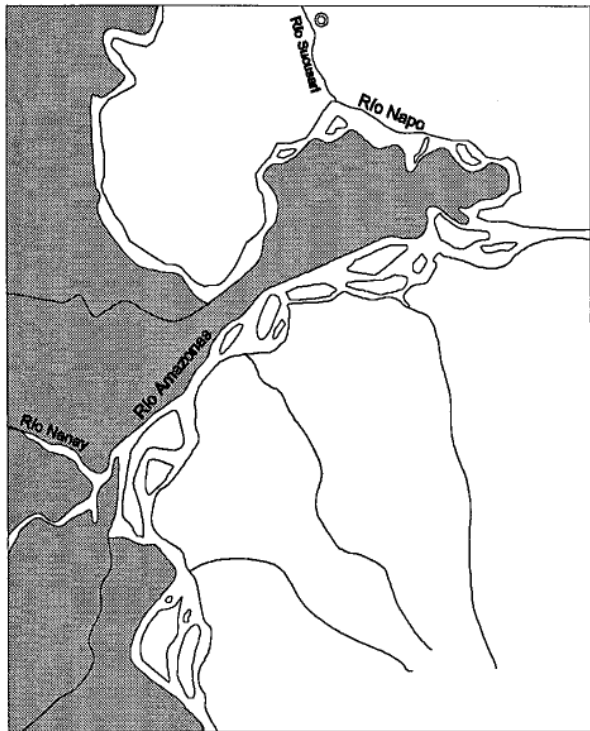


Figure 1. Location of the sighting of *Callicebus cupreus discolor* in northern Peru. Saded area indicates geographic distribution according to Aquino and Encarnación (1994).

would appreciate hearing from others who have also encountered this subspecies north of the Río Napo.

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Reference

Aquino R. and F. Encarnación. 1994. Primates of Peru / Los Primates del Perú. *Primate Report* (40): 1-127.

News

PHILIP HERSHKOVITZ

It is with great sadness that we report on the death of Professor Philip Hershkovitz, Emeritus Curator of Mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, on 15 February, 1997. Professor Hershkovitz was one of the most distinguished mammalogists of this century. His expertise and research extended to all New World mammals, including notably rodents and marsupials, but his contributions to New World Primatology have been enormous. The current taxonomies of the majority of the genera and our knowledge of their distributions are a result of his numerous encyclopedic works, and no one can doubt that he has been, and will be for many years to come, the inspiration and basis for countless studies of platyrrhines, underpinning the great increase in our knowledge of their morphology, taxonomy, distributions, phylogeny, ecology, behavior and conservation.

COMPARATIVE STUDIES ON HANDEDNESS IN MARMOSETS AND TAMARINS

In September 1996, Silke S. Singer completed a Diploma Thesis at the German Primate Center (DPZ), Göttingen, on handedness in *Callithrix*, *Saguinus* and *Leontopithecus*. The research was supervised at the University of Regensburg by Prof. Dr. M. Vater and at the DPZ by Dr. M.H. Schwibbe and Dr. J. U. Ganzhorn. It was supported by the German Primate Center, the University of Regensburg and the Zoological Garden Magdeburg. The following is a summary of the thesis.

Handedness in non-human primates is a disputed and little understood phenomenon. The purpose of the present study was to investigate hand-use in 45 individuals of nine spe-