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A POSSIBLE RECORD OF *CALLICEBUS* IN ARGENTINA

Marcelo F. Tejedor

The platyrrhine skull N° 17.3 (Fig. 1) held by the Mammalogy Section of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN), Buenos Aires, is undoubtedly attributable to *Callicebus*, and came from the Argentine province of Formosa. In January 10, 1917, Mr. Cáceres sold several mammalian specimens from Formosa, including *Panthera onca*, *Myrmecophaga*, *Tamandua* and the skull of *Callicebus* to the MACN. Although this is the first record of *Callicebus* in Argentina, the remaining genera certainly occur there.

The titi monkey, genus *Callicebus*, is one of the most diversified platyrrhines, widely distributed throughout the neotropical forests especially in the Amazon and Orinoco basins, but also in other regions such as the Atlantic and Paraná forests in Brazil, as well as in Bolivia and northwestern Paraguay (Hershkovitz, 1988, 1990). Following the latest taxonomic revision by Hershkovitz (1990), the genus *Callicebus* includes 13 species divided into four species-groups: *modestus*, *donacophilus*, *moloch* and *personatus*. Among the *donacophilus* group, *C. donacophilus* occurs in the southernmost part of the geographic range for the genus (excluding the isolated *personatus* group in the south east

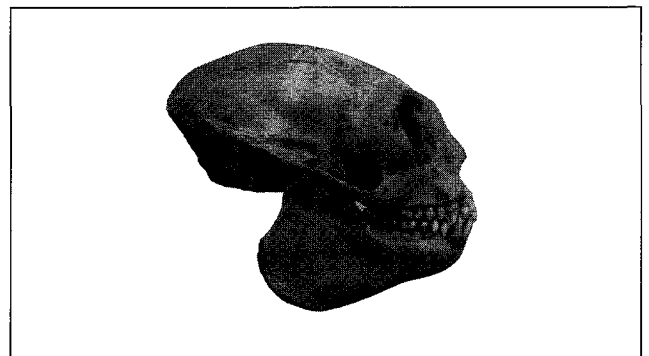


Figure 1. Skull of *Callicebus*. No. 17.3 in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires.

of Brazil, at about the same latitude). In Paraguay, *C. donacophilus pallescens* reaches the Pilcomayo river, a geographic boundary between Paraguay and Argentina, but there are no reports from the Argentine border.

A more precise location for the specimen from Formosa was not provided by the collector Cáceres. Fieldwork in the area, will be needed to confirm the continued occurrence or otherwise of *Callicebus* in Argentina.

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Marcelo F. Tejedor, CONICET and Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Sede Esquel, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia "San Juan Bosco", Sarmiento 849, (9200) Esquel, Provincia del Chubut, Argentina. E-mail: <mtejedor@unpata.edu.ar.>

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TWINNING IN SEMI-FREE RANGING CAPUCHIN MONKEYS (*CEBUS APELLA*)

Massimo Mannu
Eduardo B. Ottoni

The majority of primates give birth to a single offspring, except for callitrichids (Fleagle, 1999) and some prosimians (Mittermeier *et al.*, 1994). Twinning is rare in other species. In captivity Stott (1952) and D'Amato and Eisenstein (1972) reported twinning in *Cebus apella*, Pissinatti *et al.* (1999) in



Figure 1. *Cebus apella* twins.

C. xanthosternos and Altmann *et al.* (1988) in *Callimico goeldii*. In the wild, Strier, (1990) mentions one case in *Brachyteles arachnoides*, Crockett and Rudran, (1987) in *Alouatta seniculus*, Chapman and Chapman, (1986) in *Alouatta palliata*, Bicca-Marques and Calegare-Marques, (1990) in *Alouatta caraya*, Knogge and Heymann, (1995) in *Callicebus cupreus cupreus*, and Aquino *et al.* (1990) in *Aotus vociferans*.

A semi-free ranging capuchin group lives in a semi-reforested area of 180,000 m² in Tieté Ecological Park, São Paulo, Brazil. They have been studied since January 1996 (Otoni and Mannu, in press) and now comprise a group of 23 individuals. In this long-term study, two out of 11 births were sets of twins. The sets of twins were born to the same mother. The first birth was reported by the veterinary Liliane Milanello in September 1996. The surviving infant (Frank) is now three and a half years old. The second twinning occurred early in the morning of May 22, 1999, when the observer arrived one of the newborns was still wet. As far as we know this is the first report of capuchin monkey twinning in semi-free ranging conditions. On the day of the birth the smaller newborn was being carried by its mother in a ventral position, whereas its bigger brother was being carried in transverse-dorsal position. On the second day both of them were being carried in transverse-dorsal position (Fig. 1). The smaller newborn was found dead on the morning of May 24, 1999, while still being carried by its mother. The other twin (Darwin) was still alive in July, 2000.

Massimo Mannu and Eduardo B Otoni, Departamento de Psicologia Experimental, Instituto de Psicologia, Universidade de São Paulo, Av. Prof. Mello Moraes, 1721, Bloco A, Cidade Universitária, 05508-900 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. E-mail: <mmannu@usp.br.>

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