Distribution of Brown Capuchin Monkeys (*Cebus apella*) in Venezuela: A Piece of The Puzzle

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The distribution of the brown capuchin monkey (*Cebus apella*) in South America is widely documented (Husson, 1978; Eisenberg, 1989; Emmons and Feer, 1990). It ranges from northern Argentina throughout the Guyanas, southern Colombia, and southern Venezuela, inhabiting a broad variety of forest types. The habitats and distribution of *Cebus apella* in Venezuela are known from the works of Handley (1976), Rudran and Eisenberg (1982) and Bodini and Pérez-Hernández (1987). According to Bodini and Pérez-Hernández (1987), *Cebus apella* is represented by two subspecies, *C. a. apella* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *C. a. margaritae* Hollister, 1914. The first is restricted to the state of Amazonas where it is found along both banks of the upper Río Orinoco, whereas the latter is restricted to Margarita Island highlands, approximately 38 km from the state of Sucre, northeastern Venezuela. The disjunct distribution of the brown capuchin monkey is puzzling and not yet explained. It is likely that man introduced this monkey to Margarita Island (Rudran and Eisenberg, 1982; Eisenberg, 1989; Linares, 1998). A recent sighting of *Cebus apella* in eastern Venezuela suggests that fieldwork should be conducted in the south and east to gather information on its presence from northern Guyana throughout northeastern Bolivar State, the Río Orinoco delta and the highlands of the state of Sucre. In this paper we report new findings on the distribution of the brown capuchin monkey in Venezuela.

On May 23, 1993, a survey was conducted by law enforcing officials of the Venezuelan Wildlife Service under the command of Chief Game Warden S. Boher-Bentti along Caño (stream) Matico to and from Curiapo village (8°35'N, 60°02'W). Curiapo is in the southeastern part of the Río Orinoco delta, approximately 120 km SE Tucupita (Fig. 1). The mean annual temperature in the area is 26 °C. and the yearly rainfall is over 2000 mm. According to Holdridge Life Zones (Ewel *et al.*, 1976), the vegetation of the area is a tropical humid forest.

While travelling along Matico stream, we sighted two brown capuchin monkeys that were foraging in a patch of "moriche" palm trees (*Mauritia flexuosa*) at 16:50 hours. At that time, we were stationed at the mouth of the Jamatuba Stream, approximately 45 minutes from S Curiapo village. According to the indigenous field guide, *Cebus apella* is locally known as "Nakú-Jabu" in the language of the Warao People. Its presence in the Río Orinoco delta is a new record for Venezuela and an extension of the species' range.

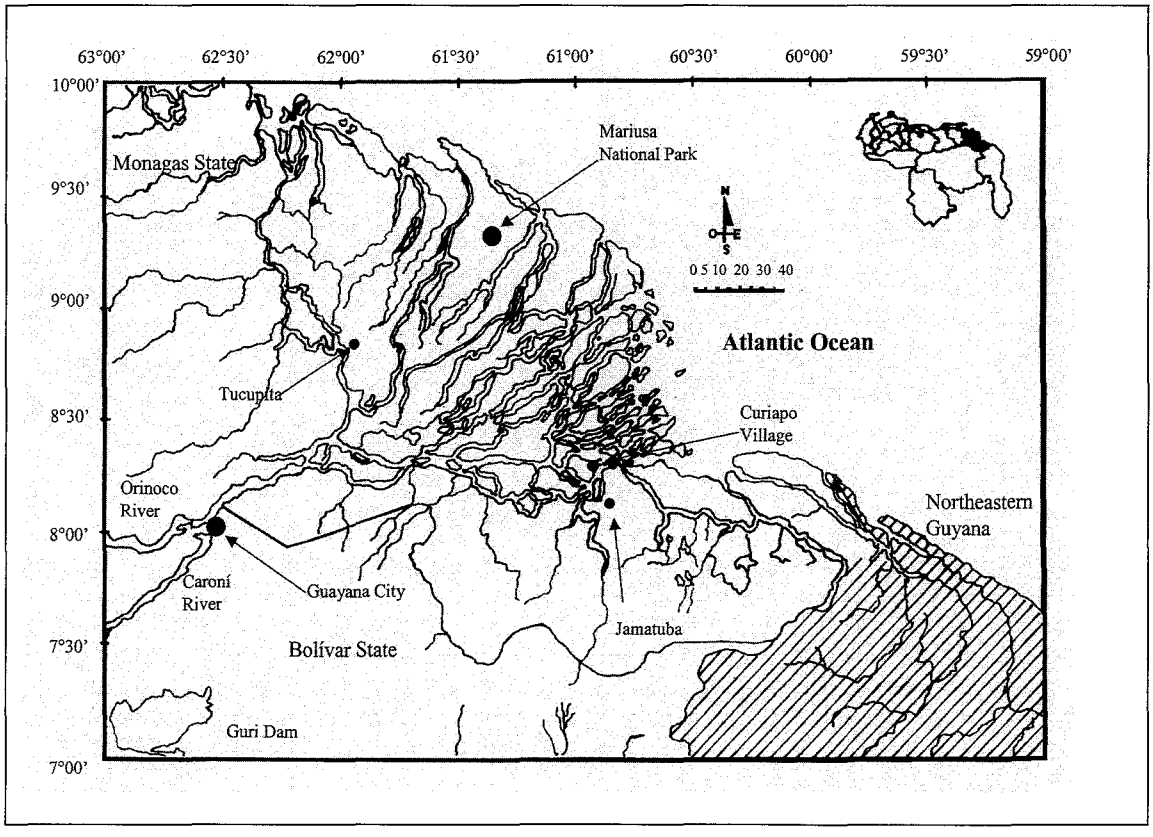

Figure 1. Map of Delta Amacuro State showing the Orinoco River Delta and the Curiapo village sighting site, northeastern Venezuela.

In Guyana, *Cebus apella* is found along both banks of middle Essequibo River and the River Cuyuni (Map 6.11 p.248 in Eisenberg, 1989). The latter locations are close to the coastal belt of Guyana and are approximately 300 km SE of Curiapo. Lowland forests are found in the Orinoco delta and northeastern Bolivar State (Huber and Frame, 1989), whereas seasonal evergreen forests are found in the northeastern coastal belt of Guyana (Lindeman and Mori, 1989). This continuous forest belt suggests that *Cebus apella* might be present from northern Guyana to the Orinoco delta. The habitat types found along this belt harbor similar conditions to the delta region (V. González, pers. comm. 2000), supporting the conjecture of a continuous distribution for *Cebus apella*. We are planning a field trip to the Orinoco delta to conduct a wildlife survey, looking particularly for the brown capuchin monkey, in the near future.

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A New Locality for the Masked Titi Monkey, *Callicebus personatus nigrifrons*, in a Protected Area in Minas Gerais, Brazil

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The masked titi monkey (*Callicebus personatus*), a species threatened in Brazil (Fonseca *et al.*, 1994; Lins *et al.*, 1997; Machado *et al.*, 1998), is restricted to the Brazilian Atlantic forest, including the states of Sergipe, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo (Rylands, 1994, 1998). A proposed conservation strategy for the species in Minas Gerais state is to survey protected areas for unknown populations (Rylands, 1998). This paper reports a new locality for *C. personatus nigrifrons* in a protected area in Minas Gerais state.

Field work was conducted at the Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural do Caraça (RPPN Caraça) (20°05'S, 43°28'W), municipalities of Catas Altas and Santa Bárbara, state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil. The Caraça Reserve is 11,233 ha, ranging in elevation from 850 to 2,072 m above sea level (Zico, 1990). Native vegetation inside the reserve includes montane Atlantic forest in the lowest parts and near water, and 'campo rupestre' and high altitude grassland ('campos de altitude') in the highest and rocky regions. There are small patches of pasture in some areas in the reserve.

Since 1996, groups of *C. personatus nigrifrons* have been recorded at RPPN Caraça, at altitudes between 850 and 1,450 m. These forests have trees varying in height from 4 to 17 m. Generally, groups of two to five individuals can be observed foraging in the middle and upper strata of the forest (Fig. 1). In April 1996 one individual was observed eating fruits from a Melastomataceae tree.

Besides the observations from the RPPN Caraça, we found groups of three to four individuals at Fazenda Bocaina (19°58'S, 42°57'W), municipality of Santa Bárbara, located at the base of the Serra do Caraça, 4 km from the reserve. Fazenda Bocaina has areas of second growth forest at altitudes between 750 and 900 m above sea level. These forests are connected with those of the RPPN Caraça. Unfortunately, every year, many forested areas adjacent to RPPN Caraça, are cut due to mining and