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THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW POPULATION OF BLACK LION TAMARINS (*LEONTOPITHECUS CHRYSOPYGUS*) IN THE SERRA DE PARANAPIACABA, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

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A group of black lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus chrysopygus*) was sighted on 19 December, 2002, at 4:30 pm, at the Fazenda João XXIII (23°53'09"-23°56'29"S, 47°42'30"-47°40'08"W), in the municipality of Pilar do Sul, state of São Paulo, Brazil. The farm belongs to Eucatex S/A and is located in the Serra de Paranapiacaba, near the Carlos Botelho and Intervales State Parks. The farm is a mosaic of *Eucalyptus* plantations (1307 ha) and patches of Atlantic

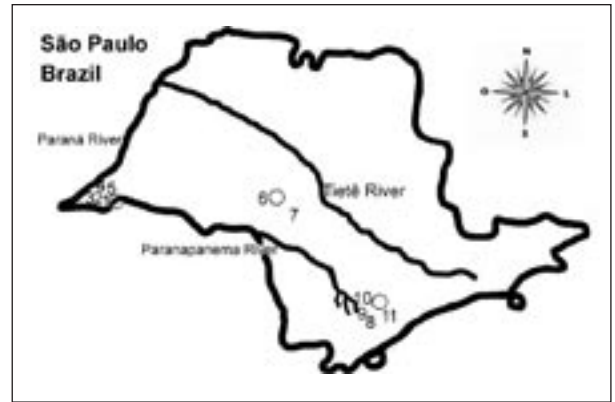


Figure 1. Recorded wild populations of black lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus chrysopygus*). Numbers with circles indicate protected areas.

forest, comprising small forest fragments and gallery forest (440 ha) and a large fragment of 611 ha.

The group was composed of at least five individuals. They were calling intensely during the observation period at the same time as some bare-throated bellbirds (*Procnias nudicollis*). It is possible that the bellbirds were excited by the presence of the lion tamarins. Foraging associations of black lion tamarins and insectivorous birds have been described in the literature by Passos (1997), who mentioned that the birds were sometimes alarmed by the primates. We were able to observe the lion tamarins at heights of 5-8 m for about 10 minutes, after which they became silent and disappeared. No pictures or audio recordings of their vocalizations were taken.

Until recently, black lion tamarins were known to occur in only three protected areas in São Paulo (Morro do Diabo State Park, Caetetus Ecological Station and Angatuba Ecological Station), and in six other forest fragments located in the western and central regions of the state of São Paulo (see Coimbra-Filho, 1970; Coimbra-Filho, 1976; Mamede-Costa and Gobbi, 1998; Passos, 1994; Valladares-Pádua and Cullen Jr., 1994; Valladares-Pádua *et al.*, 2002). More recently, two new sub-populations were found in forest fragments in the eastern part of the state in the municipality of Buri (Valladares-Pádua *et al.*, 2002) (Fig. 1).

This is the eleventh remaining natural population recorded for this species, and the easternmost record of the distribution of *L. chrysopygus* in recent times. Several specimens were captured by J. Natterer in 1819 and 1822 in the municipalities of Cotia and Ipanema, and by E. Garbe in 1902 at Vitoriana; in addition, the pelt of one specimen from Bauru was given to the São Paulo Zoology Museum (MZSP) by O. Humel in 1905 (Vieira, 1944; Coimbra-Filho, 1976). However, none are known to survive in these regions today. Because the new Serra de Paranapiacaba population is in a relatively large forest, it may represent a new hope for the survival of this species. Surveys and censuses need to be carried out in this forest and others in the region, to better determine more exactly the numbers surviving there.

1. Morro do Diabo State Park (Teodoro Sampaio)*
2. Fazenda Tucano (Euclides da Cunha Paulista)* and Fazenda Rosanella (Teodoro Sampaio)*
3. Fazenda Ponte Branca (Euclides da Cunha Paulista)*
4. Fazenda Santa Mônica (Teodoro Sampaio)**
5. Fazenda Santa Maria I (Teodoro Sampaio)**
6. Caetetus Ecological Station (Gália)*
7. Fazenda Rio Claro (Lençóis Paulista)*
8. Fazenda Migrari (Buri)***
9. Rio Apiaiaçu (Buri)***
10. Angatuba Ecological Station
11. Fazenda João XXIII (Pilar do Sul)

*Localities from Valladares-Pádua and Cullen Jr., 1994.

**Localities from Valladares-Pádua *et al.*, 2002.

***C. Valladares-Pádua (unpubl.).

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE BLACK LION TAMARIN (*LEONTOPITHECUS CHRYSOPYGUS*) IN BURI, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

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The black lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus chrysopygus*) is one of the most endangered of the Neotropical primates (Valladares-Pádua and Cullen, 1994; Rylands and Chiarello, 2003). Currently, we know of nine locations where this species occurs, with the largest population – about 820 individuals – occurring in the Morro do Diabo State Park (Valladares-Pádua and Cullen, 1994) in the far west of its range, the Pontal do Paranapanema in the state of São Paulo. Acting on new reports of the occurrence of black lion tamarins, in July 2003 the NGO IPÊ – Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas initiated a major programme of surveys to cover the entire original distribution of the black lion tamarin, to search for and assess any remaining populations which are as yet unknown to us.

We conducted our first two field surveys in the municipality of Buri, in the southeast of the state of São Paulo, where Valladares-Pádua *et al.* (2000) had observed two groups in a riparian forest. We chose this area because we had been informed of the occurrence of further groups in the region, and because it is near the southeastern limit of the black lion tamarin's geographic range (Coimbra-Filho, 1976; Rylands *et al.*, 2002). Thus far we have confirmed the existence of 18 groups of black lion tamarins, in forests extending through 15 farms (*fazendas*) (Table 1, Fig. 1).

The survey will continue into 2005, when hopefully we will have thoroughly explored the remaining forests where black lion tamarins might still survive. A full understanding of the location and size of the existing populations of *L. chrysopygus* is vital for the Metapopulation Management Plan for the conservation of the species (Valladares-Pádua *et al.*, 2002).

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