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NEW RECORD AND ECOLOGICAL NOTES ON THE ANDEAN NIGHT MONKEY (*AOTUS LEMURINUS* I. GEOFFROY, 1846) IN A PERI-URBAN AREA OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARTAGO, VALLE DEL CAUCA, COLOMBIA

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In Colombia, the department of Valle del Cauca is considered a priority region for the conservation of the

Tropical Dry Forest, one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world (Sánchez-Cuervo and Aide, 2013). Natural forest cover has been progressively lost as a result of the increasing agricultural expansion during the last two decades for sugar cane, corn and other crop activities (Berrio *et al.*, 2002). In this region, four of the 38 primate species reported for the country are found (APC, 2017; Rojas *et al.*, 2012), including *Ateles fusciceps* and *Aotus lemurinus*, both under highest threat due to forest fragmentation, and illegal hunting for pet or for biomedical purposes (Cuarón *et al.*, 2008; Morales-Jiménez and de la Torre, 2008). *A. lemurinus* is a monogamous primate, mainly nocturnal, that inhabits secondary forest, disturbed areas and has flexibility and tolerance on degraded landscapes with anthropogenic activities (Guzmán *et al.*, 2016). This primate feeds mainly on fruits and leaves, as well as insects and bird eggs, among other food items (Marín-Gómez, 2008; Defler, 2010). Despite being threatened, *A. lemurinus* survives in disturbed environments by relying on its adaptability to different diets, and small forest patches (Castaño *et al.*, 2010), and its ability to change activity patterns (Montilla *et al.*, 2018; Castaño and Cardona, 2005). Knowledge on the distribution and natural history of *A. lemurinus* is still scarce, as it is for the other five species of the genus present in Colombia (Defler, 2003; Marín-Gómez, 2008). There are few specimen records for the Valle del Cauca; nine museum specimens from Cali collected between 1898 and 1944 (AMNH 14171-14178 and ICN-13292 respectively). Nowadays, there are no current records of *A. lemurinus* for the northern Valle del Cauca department. We provide evidence on the presence of *A. lemurinus* for this location, and also include some ecological notes of the species at its habitat at the municipality of Cartago, Valle del Cauca department.

The observations were made in the Ortez watershed, a tributary of the lower La Vieja River, near the peri-urban area of the municipality of Cartago, northern of Valle del Cauca, at 917 m. a.s.l. Average precipitation is 1,578 mm/year with a bimodal pattern of rains between April and May and October and November; annual average temperature is 23.8°C (Weather-Spark 1980–2016). The landscape is formed by a heterogeneous matrix of sugar cane and banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) crops, as well as grasslands, cattle ranches, guaduales (*Guadua angustifolia*), and remnants of Dry Tropical Forest (Hiebra *et al.*, 2018). The most representative natural vegetation are pioneer trees such as “siete cueros” (*Miconia* sp.), “cedros” (*Juglans* sp.), “piñon de oreja” (*Enterolobium* sp.), “Ceibas” (*Ceiba pentandra*), Samanes (*Samanea saman*), guayacanes (*Tabebuia* sp.), yarumos (*Cecropia telealba*) and ficus (*Ficus insipida*).

Observations were obtained during random visits completing 4.5 h *ad libitum* (Altmann, 1974), surveying at the Ortez stream from September to October 2018, with a total effort of 13.5 h; observations were achieved

using spotlights with photographic records using a Nikon Coolpix L105 camera. We recorded two groups of *A. lemurinus*. The first at 09:00 h on September 7, 2018; five individuals were observed crossing the gallery forest of the small creek "Ortéz" making long jumps through the canopy of two trees of the Fabaceae family (4°45'7.668" N 75°53'40.488" W). A second group of three individuals was observed on October 24, 2018, foraging on a "guama" tree (*Inga* spp.) (4°45'1.944"N, 75°53'33.216"W) they were chasing and catching beetles of the genus *Phyllophaga*, feeding on the leaves of the *Inga* sp. The inclusion of insects in the diet of primates of the *Aotus* genus has been frequently described (Ganzhorn and Wright 1994; Fernández-Duque 2003; Shanee S. and Shanee N. 2011). However, this is the first record of the predation of beetles of the genus *Phyllophaga* by *A. lemurinus*. Group size matched average group size reported for *A. lemurinus* (2-7 ind/group) (Hernández-Camacho and Defler, 1985; Fernández-Duque, 2007), and for other species of the genus (Brown and Zunino, 1994). Similar nocturnal species sharing habitat with *A. lemurinus* at our survey site included *Potos flavus*.

We presented new records for *Aotus lemurinus* that confirm the presence of the species at Valle del Cauca department 76 years after their last observations; we suggest including these records for the species' current distribution. It is critical to study and monitor this population living in an urban-forest fragment to understand the way they have adapted, and also implement educational activities in the community to raise awareness on the importance to conserve them.

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PREDATION ATTEMPT BY DOMESTIC CATS (*FELIS CATUS*) ON A RONDON'S MARMOSET (*MICO RONDONI*) INFANT IN AN URBAN FOREST RESERVE IN PORTO VELHO, RONDÔNIA, BRAZIL

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Introduction

Mico rondoni is a recently described marmoset species endemic to the state of Rondônia, Brazil (Ferrari et al., 2010). The species is considered vulnerable to extinction, with the main threats being habitat loss and fragmentation, agriculture, livestock, urban expansion, rural settlements, increased road and energy matrices (Messias and Valença-Montenegro, 2018). Estimates indicate that 38% of the species' distribution has been converted due to the expansion of agriculture and infrastructure works, and it is expected that over the next 11 years this loss will increase to 50% of its distribution (Ochoa-Quintero et al., 2017). However, ecological and

behavioral data are scarce for the species, and more information is needed to propose conservation measures in both rural and urban environments.

Studies indicate that *Mico rondoni* exhibits tolerance to environmental changes/disturbances (Messias and Valença-Montenegro, 2018), but that it has been recorded at very low abundance when compared to other species of the family (Ferronato et al., 2018) and is probably absent in fragments smaller than 0.1 km² (Medeiro et al., 2019). *M. rondoni* has also been observed to form mixed associations with *Leontocebus weddelli* (Gusmão et al., 2015). There are no records of predation for the species to date; in general, it is difficult to observe this type of event in callitrichids (Ferrari, 2009). Potential predators of the species include birds of prey (Picho-Paucar and Torre, 2020) and medium-sized primates (Costa et al., 2020), based on information from other representatives of the family.

In the present paper we report a predation attempt by domestic cats on a *Mico rondoni* infant in an urban forest remnant in the municipality of Porto Velho, in southwestern Amazonia.

Material and Methods

The municipality of Porto Velho is the capital of the state of Rondônia, with an extent of 34,091 km². The city is crossed by the Madeira River (Fig. 1). The forest area where the present study was carried out is 1.17 kilometers away from the Madeira River. This forest is a protected area according to the Brazilian Forest Code because it is traversed by a small whitewater river that is approximately 10 m wide. According to the residents, the presence of groups of *Mico rondoni* in association with *Leontocebus weddelli* are common in this area, and stray dogs and cats are also present in the area.

Results and Discussion

The event occurred on April 22, 2020 at 3:00 pm. The marmoset group included seven individuals (six adults and one infant), and they were located approximately 1 m above the ground feeding on bananas (*Musa paradisiaca*) that were planted on the banks of the river by the local people. Three domestic cats were nearby, and they preyed upon the marmoset group. The cats took advantage of the short distance and jointly attacked the group of marmosets in an attempt to capture the primates. At the moment of the attack, the infant fell off the back of one of the adults, into the water. The cat caught the infant, but a local resident who observed the interaction promptly intervened and separated the cat from the marmoset, and later dried off the infant and kept it in a bucket (Fig. 2).

The infant was taken to the veterinarian to be treated for the multiple perforations caused by the cat's teeth. After