

Ecuador, September 2019

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In September 2019 I attended a conference in Quito, Ecuador. I spent 6 days prior to the conference visiting some sites that I did not yet know, looking for birds and mammals. Mammal-wise, my main targets were Mountain Tapir and Dusky Shrew-Opossum, which would be a new family for me. Both were found, as was my 1000th mammal species, which due to some creative accounting ended up being a monkey rather than a rodent ☺.

Itinerary

10.09.: Arrival in Quito at 13:30, rent car and drive to San Isidro (4 hours due to stops at landslides).

11.09.: Full day at San Isidro, with night walks from 3:00 to dawn and for a few hours after dinner. Strong rain later at night precluded further walks.

12.09.: Drive to Wild Sumaco. Heavy rain until 16:00. Six hours night walks around the lodge.

13.09.: Most of the day in the forest; started raining in the evening again, so little night work.

14.09.: Drive to Guango Lodge, with a 7 hour wait due to a landslide in Cordillera Guacamayos. Night walk above Papallacta, followed by night walk in Guango.

15.09.: Predawn walk at Guango, started raining again at 7:00, so that the planned visit to Cayambe-Coca did not work out. Drove on to Quito.

18.9.: Botanical day trip to Cayambe Coca NP with participants of the conference, with 4 mammal species recorded on the side.

The lodges are all well known, so I only give some updates. Without the heat scope, I would have seen half as many species.

San Isidro

The tapirs were not visiting the salt lick at the lake, but I found lots of tracks on the trails and saw one at night with the thermal scope. I found an apparently heavily used nocturnal feeding site of bats at the very conspicuous tree with several roots growing across the trail as you walk towards the cock of the rock lek, but rain prevented me from visiting at night to check it out.

Wild Sumaco

By far the best site for mammals. In particular, the bat show at the hummingbird feeders was outstanding. On the first night, there were hundreds of bats of five species around. On the second night it was not cloudy and there was an almost full moon, so that the bats kept to the dense, dark vegetation and only visited the feeders very briefly. Below the deck there is also a site where rice is put out for birds (without too much success), that was visited by one rodent species during the day and at least three at night. The immediate vicinity of the lodge and the lodge trail were excellent at night as well, but I was unable to check out more remote trails due to heavy rain.

Guango

Recent heavy rain has washed away the salt lick, so that tapirs are around but harder to see. A female with baby moves around in the upper parts of the property.

Papallacta

The road to Cayambe-Coca NP is only open 8 am to 3 pm, so that I had to walk up from the termas at night in the drizzle.

Species recorded

Taxonomy largely follows the excellent *Field Guide to the Mammals of Ecuador* by Diego Tirira, available for 40 US\$ in the zoological museum of the Catholic University in Quito. Rodent and bat determinations should be taken with a grain (actually several grains) of salt ...

(Andean White-eared Opossum (*Didelphis pernigra*): Tracks seen at Guango.)

Cauca Slender Opossum (*Marmosops caucae*): 1 found at night with the heat scope at Wild Sumaco.

Dusky Shrew-Opossum (*Caenolestes fuliginosus*): 1 found with the heat scope on the road above Papallacta. I went back after finding it, because it was drizzly, windy, and cold.

(Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*): Tracks at San Isidro and Wild Sumaco.)

(Graell's) Black-mantled Tamarin (*Saguinus nigricollis graellsii*): Two shy troops seen on the FACE trail at Wild Sumaco.

Lemurine Night Monkey (*Aotus lemurinus*): A family group of 4-5 rest close to the restaurant at Wild Sumaco and were seen around 18:30 when leaving their roost site. The taxonomy of the night monkeys in the northern Ecuadorean mountains appears to be unresolved; they certainly look very different from other populations considered to be this species.

Poepig's Woolly Monkey (*Lagothrix (lagothrichia) poeppigii*): 4-5 years ago, a pair of this species showed up at Wild Sumaco and by now the group includes 8-9 members. We found them off the FACE trail. My 1000th mammal species.



Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*): 1 seen at San Isidro.

Soederstroem's Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys soederstroemi*): Several visiting the rice feeder at Wild Sumaco at night. Treated as a species distinct from *R. mexicanus* by Tirica.

Robust Dusky Mouse (*Melanomys robustulus*): 1 seen at the rice feeder at Wild Sumaco in the afternoon. Reportedly also seen at the light trap in the morning.



Páramo Long-tailed Mouse (*Microrhizomys latissimus*). 1 seen at night feeding under the bird feeders next to the light trap at Guango.

Pleasant Bristly (Bolo) Mouse (*Neacomys (Necomys) amoenus*): Several visiting the rice feeder at Wild Sumaco at night.

White-bellied Arboreal Mouse (*Oecomys bicolor*): 1 seen climbing in the vegetation close to the hummingbird feeders at Wild Sumaco at night.

Ecuadorean Pygmy Rice Rat (*Oligoryzomys spodiurus*): 1 seen at visiting the rice feeder at Wild Sumaco at night. Treated as a species distinct from *O. destructor* by Tirica.

Brazilian Porcupine (*Coendou prehensilis*): 1 found at night with the heat scope close to Wild Sumaco lodge.

Black Agouti (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*): Several seen at all times on the feeders at Wild Sumaco.

Mountain Paca (*Cuniculus taczanowskii*): 1 found predawn with the heat scope on the trails above the main road at Guango.

Andean Rabbit (*Sylvilagus andinus*): Several at night above Papallacta. Also some fur found in Cayambe-Coca NP.

Brazilian Rabbit (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*): Several at night around San Isidro lodge. The taxonomy of this group remains unresolved.

Osgood's Shrew (*Cryptotis cf. osgoodi*): Presumably one of this taxon seen picking up insects at night below the light trap at San Isidro. Treated as distinct from *C. equatoris* by Tirira.

Central American Shaggy Bat (*Centronycteris centralis*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped in the forest around Wild Sumaco lodge.

Greater Sac-winged Bat (*Saccopteryx bilineatus*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped in the forest around Wild Sumaco lodge.

Lesser Tailless Bat (*Anoura caudifer*): Hummingbird feeders at Wild Sumaco.

Black Tailless Bat (*Anoura cultrata*): Hummingbird feeders at Wild Sumaco.

Peruvian Tailless Bat (*Anoura peruana*): Hummingbird feeders at Wild Sumaco. Treated as distinct from *A. geoffroyi* by Tirira.

Common Long-tongued Bat (*Glossophaga soricina*): Hummingbird feeders at Wild Sumaco.

Orange Nectar Bat (*Lonchophylla robusta*): Hummingbird feeders at Wild Sumaco.

Hairy Yellow-shouldered Bat (*Sturnira cf. erythromos*): Presumably one of this species seen night-roosting at San Isidro.

Alberico's Broad-nosed Bat (*Platyrrhinus albericoi*): 1 seen night roosting at Guango.

Common Mastiff Bat (*Molossus molossus*): Bat-detected at San Isidro and Wild Sumaco.

Black Mastiff Bat (*Molossus rufus*): Bat-detected at San Isidro.

Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*): Commonly bat-detected at San Isidro.

Andean Brown Bat (*Eptesicus andinus*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped at San Isidro and Guango.

Andean Brown Bat (*Eptesicus brasiliensis*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped at Wild Sumaco.

Southern Red Bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped at San Isidro and Wild Sumaco.

Hairy-legged Myotis (*Myotis keaysi*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped at San Isidro.

Montane Myotis (*Myotis oxyotus*): Bat-detected and heat-scoped at San Isidro (few) and Guango (very common).

(Northern Oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*): Tracks at San Isidro.)

Culpeo (*Pseudalopex culpaeus*): 3 very tame ones around the entrance gate to Cayambe-Coca NP. One was radio-collared.

(Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*): Tracks and broken-up *Puya* plants seen in Cayambe-Coca NP.)

Eastern Lowland Olingo (*Bassaricyon alleni*): 1 found at night with the heat scope in the forest around Wild Sumaco lodge.

Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*): 1 at night with the heat scope in the trees at Wild Sumaco lodge.

Tayra (*Eira barbara*): 2 seen climbing in trees in late afternoon at San Isidro.



Andean Tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*): 1 found at 4:30 am in dense vegetation off the Tapir trail near the salt lick at San Isidro. Later in the morning, tracks of presumably this individual seen on the trail nearby. Also, tracks of a female with juvenile following the trail to the cock of the rock lek for perhaps 500 m. Finally, tracks seen at Guango.

Little Red Brocket Deer (*Mazama rufina*): 1 found predawn with the heat-scope feeding in tall grass near the lake at San Isidro.

(Andean) White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus (virginianus/peruvianus) ustus*): A small family group in Cayambe-Coca NP. Does anybody understand the taxonomy of this group?



Total: 42 species seen/bat-detected plus 4 species tracks only.