



Pitheciine Action Group Newsletter February 2010



Illustrations: Stephen Nash

Cacajao melanocephalus.

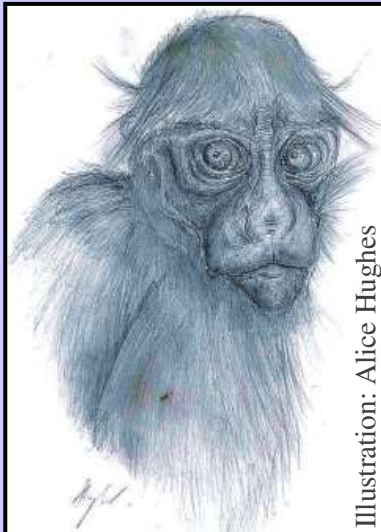


Illustration: Alice Hughes

The “Pitheciine Action Group (PAG) Newsletter” will now bring a summary of its issues in the journal *Neotropical Primates*. The journal’s open publication policy and wide distribution mean that it is uniquely placed to disseminate information about New World Primates and we hope to increase circulation of the PAG Newsletter by including it within *Neotropical Primates*.

PAG’s mission is to promote the research and conservation of members of the pitheciidae family (*Callicebus*, *Cacajao*, *Chiropotes* and *Pithecia*). These are some of the most fascinating and enigmatic primates of the Neotropics. Unfortunately, several taxa are now threatened with extinction, and for many we lack all but the most basic information. PAG was first established in 2005, and has a six-member strong Executive Committee: Liza M. Veiga, Adrian A. Barnett, Stephen F. Ferrari, Marilyn A. Norconk, Bruna M. Bezerra, & Sarah A. Boyle, and a 25-member

Coordinating Committee, which includes primatologists from all range countries.

Since November 2008, we have been disseminating information about pitheciidae primates via the PAG Newsletter (Table 1). The key objective of the Newsletter is to disseminate up-to-date information about research on the pitheciids with the intention of informing and bringing together current “pitheciid people,” increasing awareness about this group of primates and encouraging future generations of primatologists to work with pitheciid taxa.

The newsletter is a great way for PAG members to divulge their ongoing activities, and studies highlighted in previous issues have led to important conservation actions.

PAG also has a website (www.pitheciineactiongroup.org) where you can access previous issues of PAG Newsletters and the journal *Neotropical Primates*. Other website resources include key literature, thesis and dissertations, still images, as well as information on current research priorities.

Also available are biographical sketches of PAG members (Fig. 1), so if you work with pitheciid primates, we would like to learn more about you. Please feel free to email us at pag@pitheciineactiongroup.org so we can add your biographical sketch and project information to the site.

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Table 1. Projects included in previous PAG Newsletters

Pitheciid genus	Study site, country	Lead researcher/s	Institutional affiliations	NC*	General topic	PAG issue
<i>Pithecia</i>	Brownsberg Nature Park (BNP), Suriname	Dr. Marilyn A. Norconk	Kent State University, USA	7	Ecology, behaviour, conservation, acoustics	(2008), 1(1): 1-8
<i>Pithecia & Chiropotes</i>	Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, Central Amazon, Brazil	MSc. Bryan Lenz	Tulane University, USA	2	Effects of fragmentation	(2009), 2(1):1-13
<i>Chiropotes</i>	Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, Central Amazon, Brazil	Dr. Sarah A. Boyle	Rhodes College, USA	4	Behaviour, ecology and conservation	(2009), 2(1):1-13
<i>Chiropotes</i>	Tucuruí Reservoir, Brazil	Dr. Stephen F. Ferrari & Dr. Liza M. Veiga	Universidade Federal de Sergipe; Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi and Federal University of Pará, Brazil	4	Ecology, fragmentation effects, behaviour	(2009), 2(3):1-14
<i>Chiropotes</i>	BNP, Suriname	MSc. Tremaine Gregory	Kent State University, USA	5	Ecology and social behaviour	(2009), 2(4):1-14
<i>Callicebus</i>	Estación Biológica Quebrada Blanco, Peru	Dr. Eckhard Heymann	Deutsches Primatenzentrum (DPZ), Germany	5	Ecology, behaviour and demography	(2009), 2(1):1-13
<i>Callicebus</i>	Peruvian Amazonia, Peru	Dr. Rolando Aquino	Estación Experimental IVITA, Iquitos, Peru	5	Geographic distribution and taxonomy	(2009), 2(1):1-13
<i>Callicebus</i>	Estación Biológica Caparú, Colombia	BSc. Silvia Alvarez	DPZ, Germany	1	Feeding ecology	(2009), 2(1):1-13
<i>Callicebus</i>	States of Sergipe and northern Bahia, Brazil	Dr. Stephen F. Ferrari	Universidade Federal de Sergipe, Brazil	12	Population surveys, ecology	(2009), 2(2):1-16
<i>Callicebus</i>	San Martin, Peru	BSc. Jan Vermeer	Le Conservatoire pour la Protection des Primates, France. Mono Tocón project group	Project team	Wild population surveys, captive breeding, conservation	(2009), 2(2):1-16
<i>Callicebus</i>	Minas Gerais, Brazil	Dr. Robert Young & MSc. Cristiane César	University of St Andrews, UK	13	Conservation, behaviour, ecology and acoustics	(2009), 2(3):1-14
<i>Cacajao</i>	Rio Negro/Rio Branco interfluvium, Brazil	Dr. Jean P. Boubli	Wildlife conservation Society (WCS), Brazil	3	Ecology and conservation	(2008), 1(1): 1-8
<i>Cacajao</i>	Jaú National Park (PNJ), Brazil	MSc. Bruna M. Bezerra	University of Bristol, UK	3	Behaviour, acoustics, conservation	(2008), 1(1): 1-8
<i>Cacajao</i>	PNJ, Brazil	MSc. Adrian A. Barnett	University of Roehampton, UK	4	Feeding ecology, conservation	(2008), 1(1): 1-8
<i>Cacajao</i>	Loreto, Peru	Dr. Mark Bowler	University of St. Andrews/ University of Kent, UK	8	Conservation, behaviour and ecology	(2009), 2(4):1-14

*NC= number of collaborators. The number of collaborators in each project may now vary.

We also have a Yahoo PAG group and you can also join us on Facebook:
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pitheciineactiongroup>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/wwwpitheciineactiongroup/444711775180>

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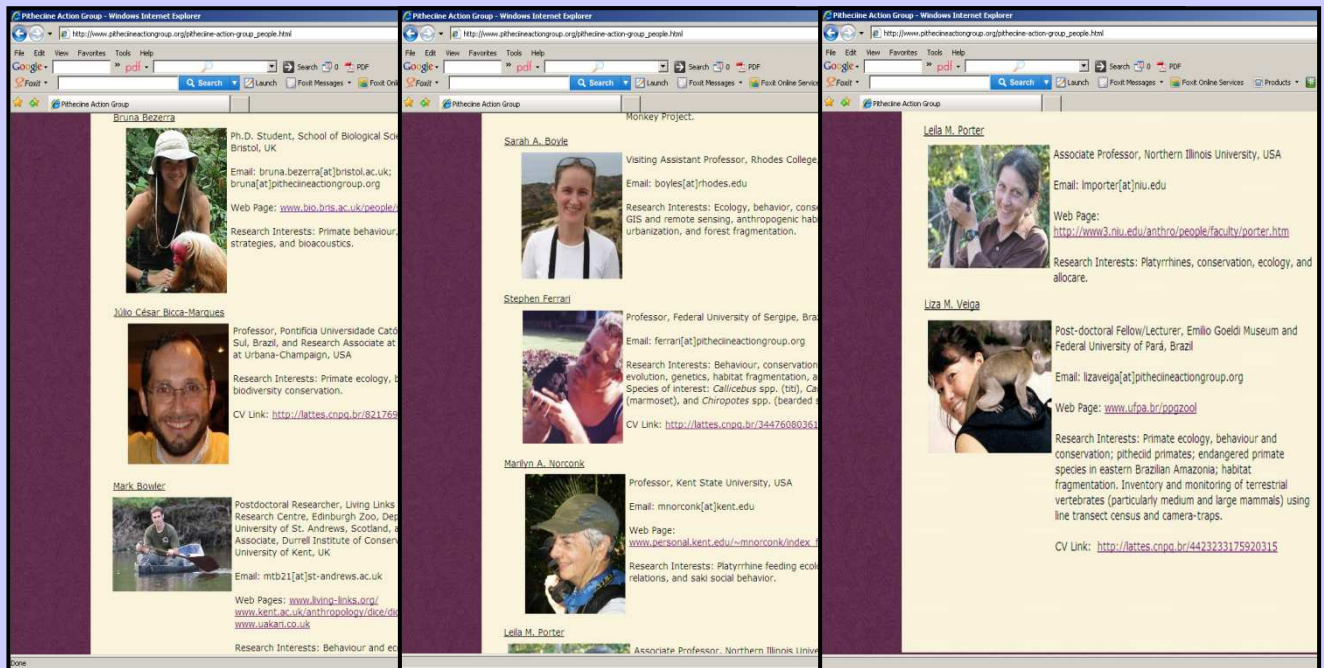


Fig. 1. Biographical sketches of PAG members (http://www.pitheciineactiongroup.org/pitheciine-action-group_people.html).

Posting information on the site and becoming a member of the Yahoo PAG and Facebook groups are great ways to become acquainted with people who have similar research interests and keep track of news about the pitheciids and current research projects.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!
 Bruna M. Bezerra, Liza M. Veiga & Sarah A. Boyle
 (Editors of the PAG Newsletter)



Illustrations: Stephen Nash

Meeting reports

XIII Brazilian Primatological Congress



Fig. 2. Opening ceremony of the XIII Brazilian Primatological Congress (Photo: Bruna Bezerra).

The XIII Brazilian Primatological Congress was held in Blumenau, Santa Catarina, Brazil, between 11 and 15 of December 2009. The opening ceremony (Fig. 2) was attended by some of the leading figures in Primate Conservation, such as Dr. Russell Mittermeier (Chair - IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group- PSG)

and Dr. Anthony Rylands (Deputy Chair - IUCN/SSC-PSG). Also present were some of the pioneers of Brazilian primatology such as Dr. Aldemar Coimbra-Filho and Dr. Alcides Pissinatti. There was an excellent atmosphere at the Congress and we hope it inspired the next generation of primatologists (Fig. 3).

During the week of the Congress, undergraduate and post-graduate students, and renowned professionals from national and international institutions met during coffee-breaks, symposia, round tables and poster sessions and were able to talk about issues related to primate research, conservation and management. More than 300 studies were presented at the congress, including several on the pitheciids: *Callicebus* (16), *Cacajao* (2), *Chiropotes* (2) and *Pithecia* (1).



Fig. 3. Congress delegates (Photos: Bruna Bezerra).

Meeting reports

Primates in Peril: Top-25 Most Endangered Species 2008-2010



Fig. 4. Launching of the Top-25 Most Endangered Primate Species (Photo: Bruna Bezerra).

The report 'Primates in Peril: The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates, 2008-2010' was launched in Bristol Zoo Gardens (Bristol, United Kingdom) on the 18th of February of 2010 (Fig. 4 & 5). This is the 5th edition of the report. The first was launched in 2000 in Washington (DC, USA). The new list includes three primates from the Neotropics (the cotton-top tamarin, *Saguinus oedipus*, the brown spider monkey, *Ateles hybridus* and the Peruvian yellow-tailed woolly monkey, *Oreonax flavicauda*); five species from Madagascar; six from Africa; and 11 from Asia. Some of the main threats to these primate species include increasing hunting pressure, habitat loss and degradation. This new list has been compiled by the Primate Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the International Primatological Society, in collaboration with Conservation International.

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Meeting reports



Fig. 5. Geographic regions of the Top-25 Most Endangered Primate Species as presented by Dr. Russ Mittermeier and discussion panel (Photos: Bruna Bezerra).

During the meeting, Dr. Russ Mittermeier and Dr. Anthony Rylands presented an overview of the species that have been included in past Top-25 reports. They also showed successful conservation projects that managed to recover primate populations that were once included in the previous Top-25 reports (e.g. three decades of conservation research on the golden-lion tamarin, *Leontopithecus rosalia*, in Brazil). Discussion with media representatives and an audience of primatologists and conservationists followed the presentations by Dr. Mittermeier and Dr. Rylands.

A few upcoming meetings

American Society of Primatologists Meeting

June 16-19, 2010, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

<http://www.asp.org/meetings/index.html>

International Primatological Society XXIII Congress

September 12-18, 2010, Kyoto, Japan

<http://www.ips2010.jp/>



Pitheciid images



Fig. 6. *Chiropotes albinus* (Photo: Antonio Husadel)