

### **Project Update: November 2003**

I am currently half way through my research concerning this rare, and until 1999, scientifically unknown Ateline. I have made various journeys to different areas of montane forest in the 1.8 million hectare Madidi Protected Area, and am adding data to the map of its current known distribution, as well as collecting data on its behavioural ecology. This woolly monkey (*Lagothrix* spp.) is still taxonomically unknown and appears isolated from the nearest species in its genus, *Lagothrix cana*, which historically occurred in southern Peru. During my next trip I intend to ascertain if it is still present there, and if there could be any connectivity with the Bolivian population.

I am also in the process of training two teams of local researchers, one to do a behavioural ecology study of a large group found near to their community, and another as a mobile team, to fill in the gaps of this primate's known distribution.

Workshops will be held towards the end of the project to share information gathered with local communities and inform people living in the region of the rarity and importance of this large primate both to the montane forest ecosystem and to all Bolivians.