

Project Update: June 2014

I started updating the fungi collection (Ganodermataceae) in the National Botanical Garden herbaria. I detected some problems with incorrect identifications, for instance. I made a database and I started to incorporate my details about my own specimens from my new field's studies. (I collected and preserved fungi species from Viñales)

I called a meeting of the mycologists of all the country and we celebrated the National Mycological Meeting because we need to know what kind of work about fungi is doing in Cuba. We decided to create The Micological Section within the SOCUBOT (Cuban Botanical Society). We don't have a National Micological Association so this is the first step to make something like this. I was selecting like coordinator of this section and I will try to carry up my responsibility the correctly way. On the other hand, this meeting got some students interested in the mycology together at the same place. This point is very important to the future conservation work. The majority of works were about species pathogens in Cuba and their effects in agriculture and the human health. Only two presentations were about fungi conservation because there are many problems, in part, in applying IUCN conservation criteria, and the poor knowledge on the diversity and distribution of some groups. We agreed to work very hard because the Cuban people need to know about the importance of fungi and their conservation.

I visited two communities in Havana and I appreciated the low knowledge about fungi in that people, even some of them didn't know that fungi are not neither plant nor animal. We saw some fruit body of *Ganoderma weberianum* (an important and rare species in Cuba) destroyed by some children because they didn't know what was this. We spoke with these people and they understood everything, we decided to make some special literature for children because the fungi world is very complicated for them.

We are working in the field guide from Viñales National Park (an important place into our country). This book will be useful to develop conservation actions and will provide valuable environmental education material. In addition, we contributed with another field guide, this material is in edition process and will be publish very soon.



Left to right: Laboratory Explanation; Watched Spores, Making Cards.