

Project Update: December 2014

Activities realised:

1. One field trip was conducted to the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra de Rosario” (BRSR) in joint collaboration with grantee Rodet Rodríguez Silva (12925-2). We collected ecological data and undertook awareness-raising activities with staff from the protected area and children from local schools.
2. We produced various copies of one poster and one colour field guide on the scorpions of Guaniguanico Mountain Range that were distributed to staff of this reserve and in local schools.
3. Three more field trips were undertaken to other protected areas in western Guaniguanico Mountain Range, Bejucal-Madruga-Coliseo Mountain Range and northern coast of Habana-Artemisa provinces.

Money saved from field trip in collaboration with Rodet will be reallocated to produce more posters and field guides to be distributed in the Faculty of Biology, University of Havana, and in other protected areas.

We found one cave population of *Tityopsis* in Mayabeque province that constitutes a new species to science, currently under serious threats.



Photo 1. Collecting *Tityopsis* by the project leader in a semi-deciduous forest at the Protected Area “Cañón del Río Santa Cruz”, Sierra del Rosario. © Raimundo López-Silvero.
Photo 2. Capacity-building with local community people at the Protected Area “Cañón del Río Santa Cruz”, Sierra del Rosario. © Raimundo López-Silvero.



Photo 3. *Tityopsis* cf. *inaequalis* from Sierra del Rosario, western Guaniguanico Mountain Range. © Raimundo López-Silvero. Photo 4. The project leader searching for *Tityopsis* at the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Rodet Rodríguez.



Photo 5. The project leader giving training to technical staff from the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Rodet Rodríguez. Photo 6. The project leader giving training to technical staff from the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Rodet Rodríguez.



Photo 7. The project leader giving training to technical staff from the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Ruben Marrero. Photo 8. Capacity-building with children from local schools of the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Ruben Marrero.



Photo 9. Capacity-building with children from local schools of the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Rodet Rodríguez. Photo 10. Capacity-building with children from local schools of the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Ruben Marrero.



Photo 11. Capacity-building with children from local schools of the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”. © Rodet Rodríguez. Photo 12. Education activities with children from local schools of the Biosphere Reserve “Sierra del Rosario”, in joint collaboration with grantee Rodet Rodríguez. © Ruben Marrero.



Photo 13. The project leader descending a cave in northern Mayabeque province to look for *Tityopsis*. © Carlos Hernández. Photo 14. The project leader searching for *Tityopsis* inside a cave in northern Mayabeque province. © Tomas M. Rodríguez (with tripod).



Photo 15. Male (right) and female (left) of a cave-dwelling population of *Tityopsis* from northern Mayabeque province. © Tomas M. Rodríguez. Photo 16. Adult female of the cave dwelling *Tityopsis* from northern Mayabeque province. © Tomas M. Rodríguez.