

Project Update: September 2014

Activities realised:

1. Two field trips were conducted to the National Park “Ciénaga de Zapata” (NPCZ), one for data collection and one for training and community education. Nine localities were visited, but we found *Tityopsis* in only two of them.
2. Training and community awareness-raising activities were realised in those localities where we found *Tityopsis* in NPCZ.
3. We elaborated various copies of one poster and one colour field guide on the scorpions of NPCZ that were used to facilitate activity number 2 and later distributed to technical staff of this reserve.
4. Three more field trips were conducted to the north region of La Habana, Mayabeque and Matanzas provinces, but only for data and specimens collection.

We found *Tityopsis* always associated to well-preserved portions of semi-deciduous forests, with 90-100% of canopy coverage and high relative humidity (>80%). Populations from NPCZ are morphologically distinct from all other known *Tityopsis* species.



Photo 1. Searching *Tityopsis* by the project leader in a semi-deciduous forest at the National Park “Ciénaga de Zapata”. Photo by ©Maydiel Cañizares. Photo 2. *Tityopsis* sp. from the National Park “Ciénaga de Zapata”. © Tomás M. Rodríguez.



Photo 3. Awareness-raising meeting with community people at Los Hondones, Ciénaga de Zapata. © Maydiel Cañizares. Photo 4. *Tityopsis* collection at Canasí, North coast of Mayabeque province. © Javier Torres.



Photo 5. The project leader collecting *Tityopsis* in a semideciduous forest at Canasí, North coast of Mayabeque province. © Javier Torres. Photo 6. The project leader collecting *Tityopsis* in a semideciduous forest at Canasí, North coast of Mayabeque province. © Javier Torres.



Photo 7. *Tityopsis cf. inexpectata* from Canasí, North coast of Mayabeque province. © Tomás M. Rodríguez.