

Project Update: March 2016

In five days November 2015 we made our presampling field trip. Here we adjust sampling times, small mammals handling time, and traveling time among sites. We captured two species: *Eligmodontia* sp. and *Calomys* sp. In February 2016 we started with the summer sampling. We captured 59 small mammals of different species: one marsupial (*Thylamys pallidior*), and four species of rodents (*Calomys* sp., *Graomys griseoflavus*, *Akodon* sp., and probably *Oligoryzomys* sp). Because captured species could not be recognised easily on a simple view, we collected a small piece of tissue from the ears of the captured individuals and we will send them to the genetic laboratory of Dra. Agustina Ojeda (IADIZA-CCT-CONICET) to confirm the real species. The most common species were captured on recently burnt sites, meanwhile rare species were recorded on not burned or old burned sites. Moreover we sampled all habitat structure measures to follow vegetation variations with small mammal changes. We started to work in conjunction with Lic. Lorena Bonjeau, a plant specialist from the IADIZA, to make a herbarium of Villavicencio and correctly identify the plant species present in each sampling site. The herbarium will be stored in the herbarium Ruiz Leal of the IADIZA-CCT-CONICET to make it available for those who need it. We could not install the weather station because of the delays on the other grant, so we are using data from a closer weather station. We hope to solve this in a short time. During ours field trips we have had the opportunity to share our experience with students from different universities and careers related to biology. In total, six student worked with us during the summer sampling, and two of them are going to start theirs final work within these project.



Left: Trap checking-Daniela Rodríguez. Right: female of *Calomys* sp.