

Project Update: November 2015

During previous months we have been working on several topics. We have had three working meetings with the Villavicencio Staff to revise and construct the fire map of the protected area. Moreover, we have conducted three field trips (during August and September 2015) to revise all records of fire on site. In Figure 1 you can see how are seen sites burned and not burned in the field. With this information on hand, we select our sampling sites and construct our sampling design. Originally we planned to work on three levels of burning but after checking places on field, we decide to include a new level: not burned. So now we have 4 levels with five or six sampling sites for each level. In Figure 2 you can check our sampling sites. After that, we have conducted another three field trips (1 week each one during September and October 2015) to construct the sampling grids. Each grid is constructed with a 5 x 5 sampling points, spaced 20 m apart. Each sampling point was marked in the field with a flagging tape and its coordinates were recorded with a GPS (n=525 sampling points). During this part of the project, students of the University Champagñat from Mendoza city have done some field practices with us (Figure 3). Moreover, we have been working with the technical staff of the CCT-Mendoza-CONICET on readying the weather station. We plan to have the weather station installed and working on field by the end of 2015. Next week we will start with our pre-sampling of small mammals.

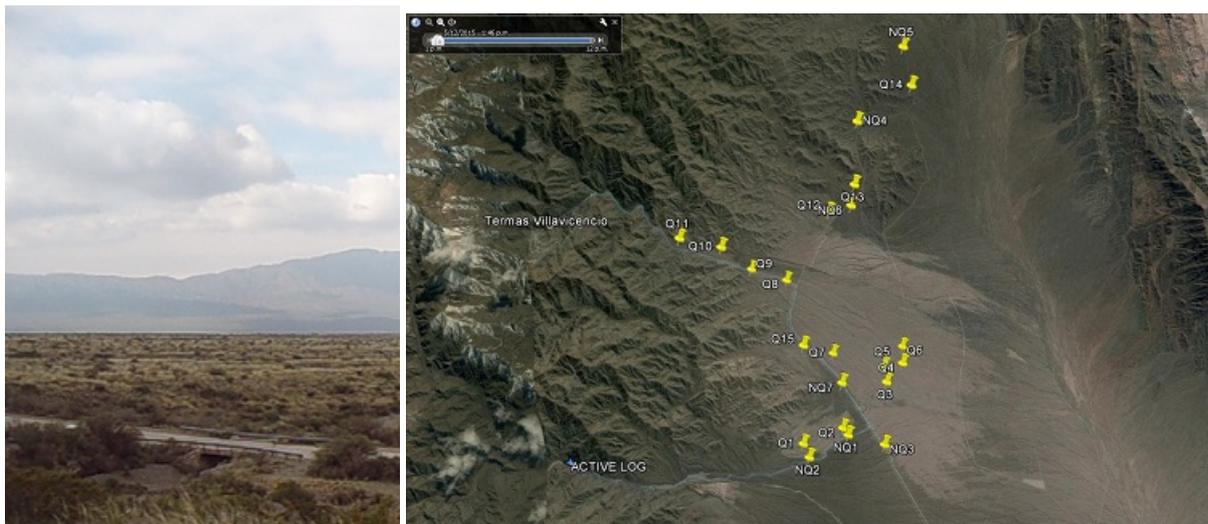


Figure 1: Burned and not burned sites on Villavicencio. Figure 2: Sampling sites on Villavicencio



Figure 3: Field trip with students of Champagñat University