

Project Update: August 2009

We conducted three expeditions to "Sierra of the Rosario" Biosphere Reserve in May, July and August 2009. In each of these trips, a week of fieldwork was carried out to evaluate hurricane-induced changes in habitat structure and populations of bats. A qualitative and quantitative characterization of the vegetation was performed in sites from which we had data on the vegetation structure before hurricane impact. In these sites we sampled bat assemblage composition. A total of 207 individuals of 11 species were captured and marked during this period. At the same time, we recorded acoustic emissions in these sites throughout the nights using the ANABAT system to estimate levels of activity of insectivorous species. A harp trap was placed in natural corridors of forest vegetation to capture those insectivorous bats that are seldom captured in the mist nets. With the harp trap, in July, we captured one individual of the Lesser Funnel-eared bat (*Chilonatalus micropus macer*) which constitutes the first record of the family Natalidae in the Reserve. In May we also presented a training lecture to workers and forest rangers of the Reserve about the bat diversity, and conservation priorities in the area.

