

## Project Update: September 2023



We have completed all monitoring activities of butterfly assemblages during the adult butterfly flying period (September 2022 to April 2023) and have identified the “Prime Butterfly Areas” of highland grassland remnants located around the city of Tandil (Buenos Aires, Argentina).



We have identified the key green areas (public parks and schoolyards) where the butterfly (biodiversity) gardens are to be located. We have installed three butterfly gardens by planting native highland grassland plant species which include butterfly host plants and nectar resources in these selected green areas within the city of Tandil. The remaining gardens are going to be planted within these next 2.5 months, which coincides with our austral spring season and the end of the school year.







We have led workshops in the schools where the butterfly gardens have been planted prior to their implementation, so that the teachers may integrate them with their core curricular activities. These workshops are ongoing, as teachers from different school years require different approaches and ask for different types of activities, depending on their subject matter.



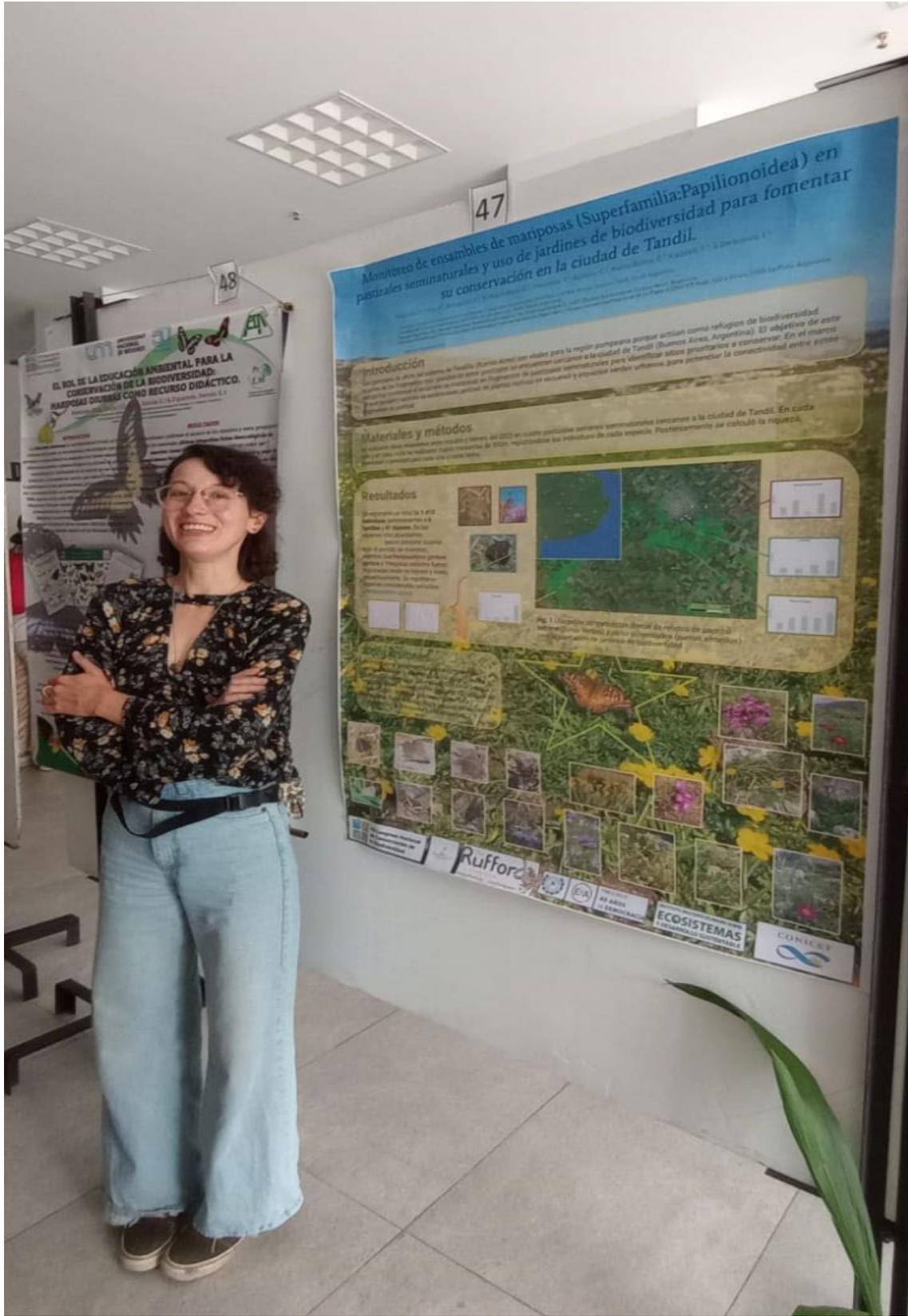


We have been able to establish a network of interested schools and organisations in order to promote awareness of the threats faced by the Pampas highland grasslands of the Tandilia mountain range and its butterfly communities. This has been achieved by contacting and getting to know dedicated teachers and educators (school librarians, etc.) who have actively sought out and participated in the butterfly gardens, as well as through participation in other activities, such as extension activities (Extensión Universitaria) promoted by the university groups with which we collaborate (Sendero Pampa, UNICEN; Yuyeras silvestres, UNICEN), and which are geared towards engaging citizens who are not necessarily directly tied to the university. These include a group of plant enthusiasts (Yuyeras silvestres) led by faculty from the university where we are based (UNICEN, Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias y Facultad de Agronomía).

We have two field outings planned for early and mid-Spring, which will include organisations from the local community, a local NGO, and an environmental science group led by teachers (C.E.A.D., Centro de Educación Ambiental para Docentes, which we learned about thanks to a participating school; <http://cead-nuestratierra.blogspot.com/>). These outings will consist of trail walks centered around the recognition of butterfly and plant species present in highland grassland remnant patches and are programmed for the end of October and beginning of November 2023 and will be open to the entire community.

We presented our preliminary results (poster format presentation) in the VII Congreso Nacional de Conservación de la Biodiversidad which was held in April 2023 in Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, Argentina. See below!

A difficulty that we faced was the timing of the school year in our southern hemisphere, since teachers are generally interested in integrating the activities that we carry out with the students with their core curricular activities. In Argentina, the school year starts during the end of the Austral summer in March, and ends during the beginning of the Austral summer, towards the end of December. Since the optimal time for seeing adult butterflies is in the late spring and summer seasons, and the development of plant aerial structures is also most important during these times of year, this pushed some activities of our project towards December. We plan to complete all of our activities by this date (mid December 2023).

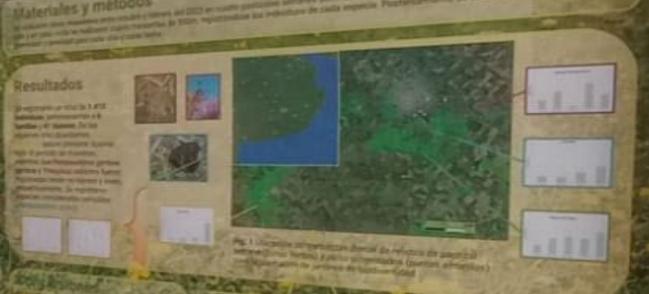


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# Monitoreo de ensamblajes de mariposas (Superfamilia: Papilionoidea) en pastizales seminaturales y uso de jardines de biodiversidad para fomentar su conservación en la ciudad de Tandil.

Introducción  
Los pastizales de altura del sistema de Tandil (Provincia de Buenos Aires) son vitales para la región pampeana porque actúan como refugio de biodiversidad...

Materiales y métodos  
Se realizaron monitoreos en cuatro pastizales seminaturales cercanas a la ciudad de Tandil...



Rufford

EIA

AS ASESORÍA AMBIENTAL

ECOSISTEMAS

CONICET