

Project Update: May 2008

We conducted three more field trips between March and April 2008. The capture effort for small mammals was 3050 night/traps. We sampled six different habitat types to compare mammal's diversity with habitat complexity. Three habitats were dominated by salty bushes and the rest were typical from Monte Desert shrub community. A total of 80 small mammals were captured from seven species. On two salty localities, we found new records for two species of rare small mammals.

We are working on the paper now, including habitat use, diet, and assemblage interaction with other small mammals. We also recorded signs of medium size mammals (like *Dolichotis patagonum* and *Ctenomys mendocinus*), and measured vegetation and soil characteristics. Five students from different state universities join us on the field trips and learn about small mammal's ecology on Monte Desert. Interaction with farm owners was also of huge importance for conducting our study.

