

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

TReeS News

The TReeS representative in Puerto Maldonado – Claudia Galvez – has a busy end to the year. Apart from visiting each lodge almost every month to provide some co-ordination to the lodge-operated RN programmes, she attended the FENAMAD Congress, met with Mobil personnel, gave talks to schools in Puerto Maldonado as part of the Ecological Festival programme of events, and met with other Organisations working in the area in Cuzco and Lima.

TReeS is continuing its dialogue with Mobil and pressing for clearer answers to the questions previously asked. Clearly further pressure can be applied following the recent tragic events in Nigeria resulting from environmental degradation by Oil companies.

There have been no further developments with the designation of the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park proposal but its progress has not been helped by several personnel changes within INRENA (the National Park Authority) and the position of the Ministry of Agriculture. The sub-regional director of the Ministry – a man tainted by various financial scandals – still believes that Madre de Dios is best suited to large scale cattle ranching!

TReeS is grateful to the British Embassy in Lima for kindly contributing towards the cost of a computer for the TReeS Puerto Maldonado Office.

TReeS has also secured funding from a US Foundation to support 12 Peruvian biologists in the Tambopata area either as RN's, participants in expeditions, or with individual studies.

FENAMAD News

The FENAMAD Congress was held in early December in Santa Rosa de Huacaria, in the Alto Madre de Dios. Representatives attended from the majority of native communities within Madre de Dios for 3 days of wide ranging talks covering all aspects of native affairs. A new committee was elected reflecting the calls that its members should be drawn from communities across Madre de Dios. TReeS contributed about a fifth of the costs to enable the Congress to go ahead.

Claudia and those working at Centro Nape will now discuss the future of the Centre with the new committee and health secretary. TReeS has sent limited funding to the Centre to enable those resident to continue with same basic activities in the meantime, while applying for long-term finance.

Resident Naturalist News

The Explorer's Inn

Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall		Humidity %
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of rain	
Sep	29.5	19.0	71	6	92.0
Oct	31.4	21.7	81	11	93.2
Nov	30.0	22.1	204	19	95.4

Giant Anteater seen at least four times; 5 Giant River Otters regularly on Cocacocha, which two Tapirs were also seen swimming across; a Margay on Sunset Point trail and an Ocelot on La Torre trail during night walks, while Jaguar tracks were found on Main Trail; a Short-eared Dog was again seen and also 2 Bush Dogs; a dead baby Howler monkey was found on Tapir trail. After very heavy rains on one November day the forest came alive with frogs most notably the swampy area at 2000m along Main Trail. Interesting bird sightings include Guans with young, Razor-billed Curassows, a Bar-breasted Piculet and Blue-hooded Euphonias.

Current/Recent RN'S and visitors include –

- **M.Cohen** – radio-tracking Piranas in the cochas.
- **T.Doan** – radio-tracking the Tegu lizard.
- **J.Partridge** – studying amphibians.
- **J.&H.Devereux** – butterfly studies.
- **I.Rivas** – studying the territorial groupings of monkeys.
- **S.Tovar** – studying Hoatzin behaviour.
- **P.Franklin** – compiling a photo record of the forest as the rains came.

Several people with long-term contacts with the area passed through – **M.Alexiades**, **M.Butt** and **P.van Ipenburg**. **J. & P.Banks** also spent some time at the lodge filming butterflies for a forthcoming 'Butterflies of Tambopata' video.

In October the lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary. To mark the occasion a football tournament for several local teams was held and won by TJL.

Tambopata Jungle Lodge (TJL)

Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of rain
Sep	30.6	21.5	71	4
Oct	30.6	22.2	147	5
Nov	30.5	23.3	145	18

- **C.Kirkby** – studying termite ecology.
- **P.Nicklin & J.Melton** – creating a medicinal plant garden at the lodge.
- **V.Karpouzli & V.Watson** – creating new lodge displays and trail notes.

Interesting sightings include Giant River Otters on Lakes Condénados and Sachavacayoc – once on each; a Southern River Otter; Collared Peccary twice; a Brazilian Porcupine once; Red Howler, Squirrel and Brown Capuchin monkeys on several occasions; and a Tapir both near Condénado and crossing the river Tambopata.

A new building for RN's is now operational and two new short trails were cut close to the lodge so that the greater number of tourists passing through create less disturbance on the existing trails.

A gold barge with suction pumps has been working along the river between the lodges and for a while was stationed opposite TJL.

Peru News

President Fujimori was one of the few world leaders to attend the UN Women's Conference in Beijing and caused controversy in Peru by promoting family planning – 90% of Peruvians claim to be Catholics; Fujimori is an Evangelist.

In most major cities the candidates of established parties again fared badly in local elections in November. Fujimori's candidate for Mayor of Lima – J.Yoshiyama, a former Minister – was beaten by A.Andrade, an independent.

Peru's foreign debt now amounts to \$31.5bn (1994 – \$30bn). A \$13m debt-for-nature swap has been arranged with several foreign governments; \$7m will go to the Machu Picchu area and the rest on the 'protection' of 7 National Parks.

Inflation to the end of November stood at 10.3%, with economic growth to the end of October at 7.6%. McDonalds will open up in Peru in 1996!

The Ministry of Energy and Mines has published new environmental standards covering air emissions, water runoff and seepage. Mining company environmental management plans must refer to this and adhere to it within 5 years.

Foreign Ministers from all Amazonian countries have signed a declaration, within the 'Amazon Cooperation Treaty', ratifying their political commitment with the sustainable development of Amazonia.

Coffee direct from Tambopata - 'Cafe Direct'

The September 1995 issue of the New Internationalist magazine (No.271) was devoted to the coffee industry and focused on coffee originating from the upper Tambopata valley – one of the beans used in the 'fair traded' coffee called 'Cafe Direct'. TReeS is discussing the nature of coffee production in this area with 'Cafe Direct' and an article about this will appear in the next TReeS Newsletter.

Tambopata '95 Expedition

Hugh Baynes, the expedition leader writes:-

The Cambridge-Peru '95 expedition spent a total of 2 months in Peru this summer working in the TCRZ principally carrying out a study on butterflies. The expedition was provided with information and advice from TReeS and encouraged by Gerardo Lamas, head of Entomology at the Natural History Museum in Lima, who has a special interest in butterflies above 500m in altitude – an area of study of which little is known.

We collected butterflies at 2 sites; the first, an area in the south of the TCRZ along the Rio Tavera. Here in the Andean foothills we worked along a transect from 300m to 1050m. Cloud forest was found at the peak, identified in 1992 by a TReeS expedition. The second site, by the Rio Aguas Negras, a tributary of the Rio La Torre that flows into the Rio Tambopata, was investigated because it is outside the proposed National Park boundaries, and a comparison of species between here and the Explorer's Inn may indicate further species diversity.

The team was lead by Hugh Baynes, who worked at the Explorer's Inn as a Resident Naturalist for 3 months before embarking on the expedition. He was joined by 3 more Cambridge students, Julian Bailey, Helen Williams and Cathryn Rich, and 2 Peruvian counterparts, Jose Felix de la Cuba and Juan Grados who were able to join us with financial aid from TReeS. We hired a guide, boat and motorist from Puerto Maldonado and set off on July 12th to the Rio Tavera.

During the 3 day journey, unusually high rainfall hindered our progress up river and restricted our campsite location at our final destination to high land within the forest. During our search for a suitable position we encountered an exploratory party working for Mobil Oil heading up the Rio Tavera with Charlie Munn of ACSS and an INRENA official aboard, who checked our collecting permits. Our guide also came across an old bridge along the Rio Yaloo, a tributary off the Tavera that he believed to be part of an old trail, abandoned and overgrown, once used by his grandmother to take goods between Puno and Puerto Maldonado.

We cut a trail from our base camp, following a quebrada up to the cloud forest site at 1050m, a trail of approximately 16km long. During our progress we came across an abandoned oil barrel fairly close to our camp – possibly a result of Mobil's recent activity in the area.

We used baited canopy traps and kite nets to gather information on changes in species composition over an altitudinal gradient. Heavy rain restricted our collecting to 15 days only in which we collected a total of 1200 specimens. Early results indicate that all butterfly families are represented,

with some species being new for this particular area and for Peru. Further, a few of the specimens have been collected previously but are as yet undescribed. Such results appear to depict an area of high diversity of species though full identification is yet to be completed.

Capybara, turtles, cayman and tapir were recorded at this site with daily sightings of rare spider monkeys especially on the trail above 500m. Jaguar tracks also appeared one morning on part of the trail and around the camp.

After a short break in Puerto Maldonado we headed for our second site. The water levels of both the Rio La Torre and Rio Aguas Negras were relatively low and as a result we experienced great difficulty in reaching our destination. We collected along a flat trail of approximately 2km that incorporated existing trails used by brazil nut collectors. We collected a total of 800 specimens in 3 weeks, again including species from all of the butterfly families. Early results have identified species previously unrecorded at the Explorer's Inn area despite the close proximity of the 2 sites. We had hoped to find white sand forest in this area but this will not be known until indicator species of this important forest type have been identified. (We would be interested to hear from members - via TReeS - who have information on white sand forest.)

During our stay we recorded 2 sightings of tapir, 3 of both saddleback tamarin and red howler monkeys and a few cayman. Two people from the native village of Infierno appeared at our camp explaining how they had been unsuccessful in their hunting having caught no large animals, which they blamed on over-hunting.

Despite the lack of mammals in the area as a result of human disturbance, our specimens collected and identified so far indicate that the area holds a great diversity of butterflies and possibly therefore of other taxa.

We left the jungle on September 17th. We visited the Natural History Museum in Lima where we left half the specimens caught with G. Lamas as agreed. He carried out some preliminary identification of some of the butterflies that will remain in England.

As butterfly species diversity can be used to indicate effects on their habitat by pollutants and other disturbances, a follow-up study may reveal the consequences of human activity in these areas.

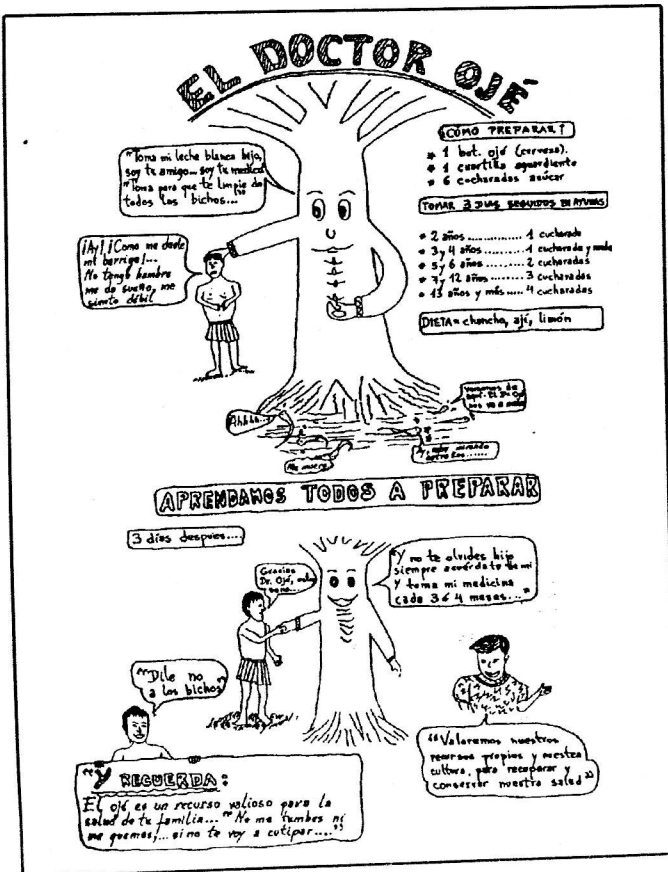
Anyone requiring a guide in the area can contact: Jesus Carrasco Moroco, Av. Leon Velarde, Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru.



Traditional Medicine Manual

After several years work 'Salud para Todas' (Health for all) - 'Plantas medicinales y salud indigena en la cuenca del rio Madre de Dios: un manual practico' has been published. The Manual was compiled by Didier Lacaze (sponsored by TReeS) and Michael Alexiades working with the Health secretaries of FENAMAD (Federation of native communities of Madre de Dios) and representatives of the native communities. It was published by FENAMAD (with TReeS support) in conjunction with the Cuzco based publisher Bartolome de las Casas. TReeS support for this work came from members' contributions, Body Shop International PLC and Helpage.

The Manual will be distributed to each native community in Madre de Dios to provide them with an easy reference guide both in terms of illness recognition and in their treatment. Most illnesses are already treated within the communities, there being almost no governmental health provision in these areas. However, much traditional knowledge is and has been lost as older members die and the younger potential recipients move away. The Manual is printed in a large clear type face and, in the first section, outlines the symptoms of over 30 common complaints in simple language with diagrams. The second describes over 75 common plant remedies taking account of the different names and uses of each of the 8 ethnic groups in Madre de Dios. Each



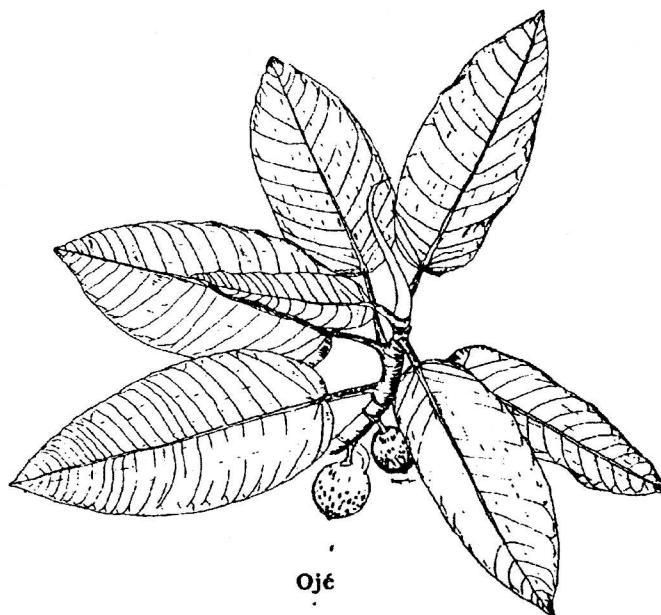
NOMBRES INDIGENAS: Amahuaca: *Hol*.
Amarakaeri: *Akumboe'*. Ese eja: *Etóna*, *Etsóna*.
Huachipaeri: *Merepopa*. Matsigenka: *Pótoyo*. Shipibo: *Shomá*.

NOMBRE CIENTIFICO: *Ficus insipida* (MORACEAE)

DESCRIPCION: Arbol que crece al borde de los ríos con leche blanca. Hay por lo menos dos tipos: blanco y amarillo o macho y hembra. El ojé blanco tiene la leche muy blanca. El ojé amarillo tiene la leche algo amarilla. Sólo se usa el ojé blanco que crece cerca del río.

USOS: La resina del ojé es un remedio seguro y eficaz contra los bichos (ver pág. 51) y tiene además propiedades tónicas y reconstituyentes. También se ponen unas gotas de la resina sobre la mordedura de víbora (ver pág. 117) y la picadura de raya (ver pág. 119). El ojé también es planta maestra.

FORMA DE CULTIVO: El ojé se puede sembrar de estaca. También se pueden sembrar las semillas en una bolsa de plástico con tierra húmeda. Cuando ha crecido unos 15 cm la planta, se puede transplantar. Es muy importante reforestar los bordes de los ríos con ojé. Cuando hagas chacra **¡NO TUMBES AL DOCTOR OJE!**



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plant is identified by a fine drawing produced by a young native artist – James Arrevalo, and the two sections are fully cross-referenced.

We hope that limited quantities of the Manual will be made available to TReeS members later in the year priced at £25, including p & p, on a first-come-first-served basis. Copies can be reserved now – payment not required.

TReeS UK Libraries

Recent deposits include: The original Resident Naturalists Log from the Explorer's Inn dating back to 1985 with recent additions – it is in the process of being updated further; an Environmental and Sociological report on the Ese'eja native community of Infierno; notes on the Condénado lakes trail from TJL; New Internationalist article about coffee growing in the Upper Tambopata valley; and the Traditional Medicine Plant Manual (see an earlier section in this Newsletter about the latter).

Forthcoming Events

'Peru off the beaten track' – 28th February, 6.30-9pm, Canning Ho., 2 Belgrave Sq., London SW1. The speaker is Steve Collins of Journey Latin America. Tickets must be obtained in advance.

Manu Biosphere Reserve: future prospects – 4th March, 6.30-7.30pm, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7. Frank Hajek will speak about the Imperial College Manu '94 Expedition and developments in the Manu area. Tickets must be obtained in advance from the RGS.

Anglo-Peruvian Society Expeditions evening – 13th March, 6.30-9.30pm, Canning Ho., 2 Belgrave Sq., London SW1. Tickets (£5) available from

D.Mortara, 34B Hunsdon Rd, London SE14. Speakers will include the Cambridge '95 Upper Tambopata expedition and the photographer Max Milligan who has recently visited the Tambopata area.

New TReeS Merchandise

'Reporte Tambopata' – published by TReeS in conjunction with the Centro de Datos of La Molina University, Lima and Conservation International. The Report contains 76 summaries of investigations carried out around the Explorer's Inn over the last 20 years. Price – £7.50, 2 for £12

'Beauty for Survival' – 28 minutes VHS Video, on how the appearance of the butterfly helps it to survive. Illustrated with magnificent shots of over 60 species of butterflies mainly from Asia and Latin/Central America including some in the Tambopata Reserve Zone. Filmed, written and produced by TReeS member, John Banks. Price – £10, 2 for £18.

'Peru Reader' – 530 pages, with photos and maps. The book includes 70 contributions, many from well known authors, covering a wide selection of topics relating to the fascinating history, politics and culture of Peru. Special TReeS price – £16 (usual mail order price – £17.50)

All other merchandise as per the last Newsletter. All prices include UK postage and packing. Cheques payable to 'TReeS'. Available from: J.Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH.

The work of TReeS is endorsed/supported by Helpage, OXFAM, Anglo-Peruvian Society, the Body Shop International PLC, several FoE groups and schools, and various small trusts and charities. Patron – Norman Myers.

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