

## **Project Update: February 2012**

Project main goals:

### **Goal I. Clarify and improve the systematic knowledge of *Gambusia* fishes in 25 localities along the Cuban archipelago.**

Activities related to Goal I, completed so far:

1. We carried out five field trips to central and western part of Cuban archipelago to sample populations of *Gambusia*. Fish collection was made in 11 localities on both the north and south shorelines (44 % of total proposed).

Until now we caught fishes in a total of 20 localities that represent 80% of total localities proposed.

2. Water parameters like pH, salinity, temperature and conductivity were recorded in each sampled point.
3. Samples of collected specimens of *Gambusia* (20-30 individuals) belonging to different sampled localities was preserved in 96% alcohol for DNA analysis.
4. Living individuals and their habitats were photographed in situ too.
5. We continue extraction of total DNA and amplification of mitochondrial genes in our lab (completing near 40% of total).

Note: We are planning to finish the field work in the next 3 months to devote the last months to the activities in the laboratory.

### **Goal II. Generate an updated distribution map of relevant species and populations useful to health and conservation authorities for successful management strategies of this fishes.**

1. We are completing a distribution map of *Gambusia* fishes and their bigger populations. We are adding up the new visited localities in central and western part of Cuban archipelago to the previous map.
2. We have submitted a manuscript to revision for publication in a scientific journal. This publication provides new distribution and ecological data of *Gambusia rhizophorae* from the Cuban archipelago.
3. Local authorities of health and wild life conservation have been informed about preliminary results in each sampled point for successful management of this fishes.

Other activities (carried out thanks to the project):

- Collected fishes were including in the collection of freshwater fishes of the Museum of Natural History Felipe Poey in the University of Havana for future studies by other researchers.

