

Project Update: August 2012

During the past 4 months we carried out different activities of the project. We conducted the revision of the collections of the Institute of Ecology and Systematics, Havana and this allowed us to identify new localities, unknown for us and unpublished, for *Polymita picta* and *Polymita brocheri* that we started to visit in this period. On the other hand, we found that the habitats of some localities represented in the collections have been destroyed and individuals of both species have been disappeared from other localities by the overexploitation of their shells.

We geo-referenced 12 localities *Polymita picta* and one of the three known localities for *Polymita brocheri* (Punta de Maisí). The populations of *Polymita brocheri* of Punta de Maisí are vulnerable, because it is a zone where the hurricanes frequently pass.

We found a new report of locality (Brinquín) for *Polymita picta* within the National Park Alejandro de Humboldt; the morph found here was previously considered extinct.

In the field trips we took data about the number of individuals by locality from both species, which have been processed. Besides were registered the plants that they used as substrate and we collected data about the conservation status of the habitat. Also, we did the inventory of the invasive species that affect the *Polymita picta* species; this revealed that the locality of Yara-Majayara is the most affected by the grey rat.

We started to make the image bank for the field guides, informative cards and posters about the target species.

In every locality visited we spoke with the local people to explain the objectives of the project and we conducted a poll to identify the level of knowledge of the communities about the conservation problem of the species. We did environmental education activities with children and farmers and we indicate the contest named "Saving the Polymitas".