

## Project Update: November 2014

I started to update the fungi collection (Ganodermataceae) in National Botanical Garden herbaria. I detected some problems with incorrect identifications. I made a database and I started to incorporate my details about my own specimens from my new field's studies. (I collected and preserved fungi species from Viñales).

I called a meeting of the mycologists of all the country and we celebrated the National Mycological Meeting because we need to know what kind of work about fungi is doing in Cuba. We decided to create The Micological Section within the SOCUBOT (Cuban Botanical Society) - we don't have a National Micological Association, so this is the first step to make something like this. I was selecting like coordinator of this section and I will try to carry up my responsibility in the correct way. On the other hand, this meeting got some students interested in the mycology together at the same place. This point is very important to the future conservation work. The majority works were about species pathogens in Cuba and their affectation in agriculture and the human health. Only two presentations were about fungi conservation because there are many problems, in part, in applying IUCN conservation criteria, and the poorly knowledge on the diversity and distribution of some groups. We agreed to work very hard because the Cuban people need to know about the importance of fungi and their conservation.



I visited two communities in Havana and I appreciated the low knowledge about fungi amongst those people, even some of them didn't know that fungi are not neither plant nor

animal. We saw some fruit body of *Ganoderma weberianum* (an important and rare species in Cuba) destroyed by some children because they didn't know what was this. We spoke with this people and they understood everything, we decided to make some special literature for children because the fungi world is very complicated for them.

We are working in the field guide from Viñales National Park (an important place into our country). This book will be useful to develop conservation actions and will provide valuable environmental education material. In addition, we contributed with another field guide, this material is in edition process and will be publish very soon.