

Project Update: November 2014

During this period we carried out three field trips to Isla de la Juventud. We visited and georeferenced 15 localities: north and south of Sierra de las Casas, El Abra Mountain, north and south of Sierra de Caballos, north and south of Sierra de Colombo, Playa Bibijagua, Sierra Chiquita, Loma de la Cañada, La Siguanea, La Fé, Carapachipey, Cerro Caudal, and Punta del Este. We fulfilled different objectives project proposed for this stage.

The faunistic inventories of the terrestrial malacofauna began and will be continued in the next stages. So far, we collected more than 40 species, deposited in the scientific collection of the National Museum of Natural History of Cuba. We also started to build-up the image bank for the illustrated guide of the land snails of Isla de la Juventud.

The populations of *Priotrochatella constellata* (Morelet, 1847) and *Priotrochatella stellata* (Velazquez in Poey, 1852) on Sierra de las Casas and Sierra de Caballos, respectively, are vulnerable. These are species that were always exploited by collectors but forest fires, loss of habitat by marble exploitation, and the hurricanes have been the principal causes of deterioration.

We found a new locality for the morph *Liguus fasciatus* (Müller, 1774). We are now working on the manuscript, and will include pictures of the other *Liguus* of Isla de la Juventud: *Liguus fasciatus pharius*, *Liguus fasciatus evangelistaense*, *Liguus fasciatus pinarensi*, *Liguus fasciatus torrei*, and *Liguus fasciatus caballoensis*.

We also visited four centres in order to be in contact with workers and park personnel: Museum of Natural History of Gerona, camp of explorer pioneers of Sierra de las Casas, CITMA (Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) in Gerona, and the Protected Area Loma de la Cañada. In December 2014, we will start the evaluation of knowledge on terrestrial molluscs in a sample of more than 30 people.



