Project Update: October 2016

In the first field incursion of my PhD project to the Barranco Alto farm, located in Aquidauana city, Mato Grosso do Sul state, Brazil, we were able to deploy the automated audio recorders at the sampling points that were selected based on a gradient of vegetation structure. We also marked the roads and tracks to reach the other points that will be sampled in the following incursions. We were able to track ~250 km inside the farm using the proposed guide to select the sampling points, and it did work well.

The roads were still dry, and we had no problem to reach the farm. But during the rainy season this will be a challenge since the roads will stay underwater. I programmed the recorders to start recording 1 hour before sunset and stop 1 hour after sunrise. During this period, it will record 2 minutes and pause for 18. I chose this schedule based on a best balance of independent time for now, but in a following incursion I will programme to them to record full time to explore how much information on community composition of calling species is retained with different recording schedules.

I still have three programed trips to the Pantanal to: i) change batteries and memory cards, ii) measure local habitat, and iii) record calling species with manual recorders and directional microphones. These next steps will occur in the rainy season, which makes the field conditions a bit harder to deal with. Still, I am really excited with them, because this is the period that anuran species will be mostly actively calling.

Left to right: I and an automated audio-recorder installed; A typical pond of the Pantanal & me recording anuran calls.