

Project Update: September 2017

I have recently returned from conducting field work within Anavilhanas National Park and Jau National Park, between August 30th and September 17th. The water level of the Black River (Rio Negro) and White River (Rio Branco) is very low and it is possible to walk by foot on all of the islands, and the soil is more exposed.

During this stage of field work, I installed 62 camera traps on the left side of the archipelago. In two weeks of data collection, the most common species on the islands were *Dactylomys dactylinus* (Amazon bamboo rat), *Coendou melanurus* (Black-tailed hairy dwarf) and *Cuniculus paca* (Paca). However, the camera traps will remain on the islands until November 2017 and the number of species captured by the camera traps is expected to increase.

For this project I considered the camera trap to be the sample unit. Because of this, I collected soil around the point of each camera trap, resulting in 62 composite soil samples. I expect that islands which are closer to the Rio Branco will have higher soil fertility than islands which are further from the Rio Branco.

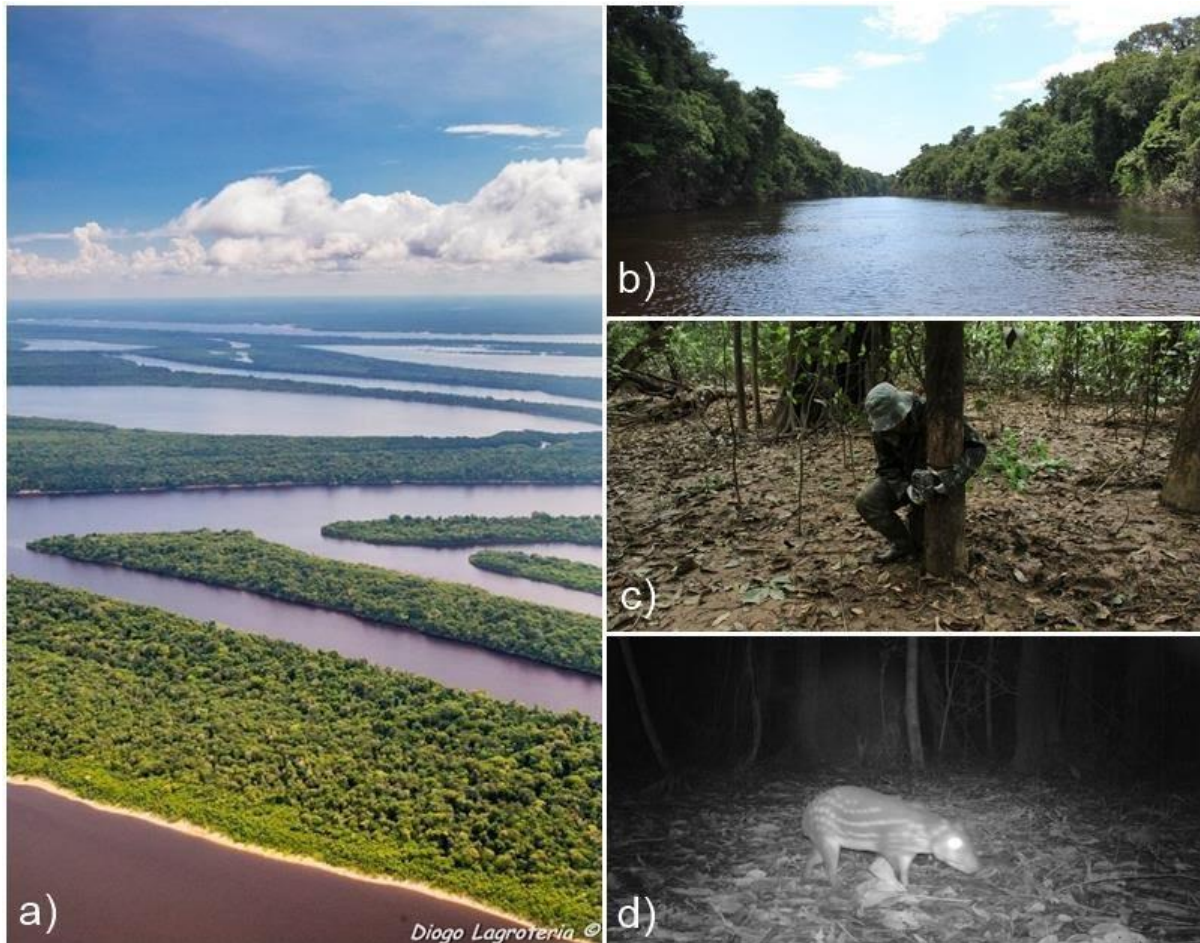


Image 1) a) Aerial view of Anavilhanas, Photo: Diogo Lagroteria; b) Anavilhanas in the flood season; c) Gilson Neto installing a camera trap; d) Individual of *Cuniculus paca* registered by camera trap during the first part of the project.

Currently, I am analysing soil fertility and preparing for follow-up field work on the river islands. This work will take place from the end of October to mid-November 2017, when I will retrieve the information about mammal's diversity on the studied islands.