

Project Update: February 2018

From October 2017 to February 2018 we sampled nine different coihue forests located in different areas of the Nahuel Huapi National Park, with different "time since fire" dates and fire severities. Most of the fires that we found that occurred in coihue forests tended to be high to intermediate severity. Our initial results indicate that high severity fires produce even aged homogenous forests stands that have lower amounts of tree cavities, especially of cavities of mid and large sizes. Moreover, these forests seem to have less bird diversity. Also we found that fire-scarred trees that survived intermediate severity fires tend to have more cavities even when comparing trees with wide DBHs (diameter at breast height).

An interesting finding was that cavity production seems to be important for trees surviving a fire and located near lake shores, which might be related with a higher wind exposition and air humidity that favours branch breakage and wood decomposition processes.



Left: A nest (possibly of *Dromiciops gliroides*) in a tree hollow in a coihue from a forest that have suffered an intermediate severity fire. Right: A fire-scarred coihue that has survived a severe fire. Behind the fire-scarred tree, the post-fire even-aged coihue cohort can be observed.



Picture 2 a, b, *Picolezna* (*Pygarrhichas albogularis*) enlarging a small sized tree cavity for making its nest in a fire-scarred coihue snag