

Project Update: June 2023

Capacity building for local inhabitants.

We have trained a small group of locals to set Sherman traps in the canopy to capture small mammals. We have also monitored other canopy mammals with them, such as the spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*). In addition, they have learned how a camera trap works and how they should be placed. Now, they can set up camera traps on their own.



Figure 1: Elaboration of the structures to install Sherman traps in the canopy



Figure 2: Learning about how camera traps work. **Figure 3:** (far right) Getting ready to go out to monitor monkeys.

Monitoring of medium-sized mammals.

We established three transects of 1 km each, within the Sian ka'an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR), to monitor medium-sized canopy mammals. Up to now, only individuals of the species *Ateles geoffroyi* have been recorded. We have not had records of *Alouatta pigra*, however, walks continue in the hope of finding individuals of this species.

An individual of *A. geoffroyi* was recorded in one of the camera traps that were set up in the understory. It is not very common for monkeys to come down from the canopy, this behaviour leads us to think that they are experiencing shortages of some resource above.



Figure 4: *Ateles geoffroyi*, spider monkey, captured by a camera trap in the undergrowth of the Sian ka'an jungle.

Monitoring of arboreal rodent species.

Two sites were established and in each one two plots, one in a conserved area, within the RBSK, and another in a disturbed area, in the common land of Limones, near the

SKBR. We set 40 Sherman traps that have been open for 8 nights over 9 months. So far, we have captured a total of 35 small mammals belonging to six different species.



Figure 5: Sherman traps installed in the tree canopy.



Figure 6: *Peromyscus yucatanicus*, *Peromyscus leucopus* and *Oryzomys couesi*.



Figure 7: *Ototylomys phyllotis*, *Reithrodontomys* sp. and *Marmosa Mexicana*.

Monitoring of interactions between arboreal small mammals and arthropods.

Regarding the arthropods associated with small mammals, we have recorded organisms from five families, Ixodidae, Laelapidae, Trombiculidae, Listrophoridae and Pulicidae.



Figure 8: Pulicidae, Trombiculidae, Listrophoridae and Laelapidae.