

Project update: January 2024

1. Summary

Field work was completed in April 2023, where new specimens were added to the study and both the presence and relative abundance of the species collected in previous campaigns were recorded. No new edible species were recorded, however, there are photographic records in local guides and other bibliography documenting the presence of more edible wild mushrooms than those found during 2022 and 2023, which will be considered as additional information in the final report.

Dissemination activities were carried out in Curanilahue and surrounding areas, to promote the conservation of the species that inhabit the Nahuelbuta mountain range, especially the macrofungi that can be found associated with endemic and native vegetation.

The identification of the samples collected has not yet been completed; there are several specimens that have only been identified by classical microscopy techniques at the genus level, so it was decided to analyze most of them with molecular techniques, to reach a more precise taxonomic classification.

2. Objectives

- Describe the diversity of macrofungi in the high parts of the Nahuelbuta mountain range.
- To conduct outreach activities aimed at the community surrounding the study sites.

3. Field work

The study sites considered in the research are: Trongol Alto and Cuesta de Caramávida, located at an altitude between 800 - 1,300 meters above sea level, where native forests of the protected species *Araucaria araucana* and *Nothofagus* spp. predominate, with the highest levels of biodiversity and endemism in Chile, but unfortunately with little protection, which is evidenced by the recent logging of native trees in some places.

In the second semester of 2023, a photographic compilation was made, both study sites and of the specimens collected, and the information obtained from the field trips was classified. Also, a selection of photographs was made to prepare a visual guide on the macrofungi sighted in the sites studied in the Nahuelbuta mountain range.

4. Accomplishments

We participated in the launching of the field guide "Biodiversidad de Nahuelbuta" published by Fundación Nahuelbuta Natural, where the leader of this project oversaw the Fungi chapter (Figure 1). Link to access the guide: <https://www.cordilleradenahuelbuta.cl/descargas/Guia-de-Campo-Biodiversidad-de-Nahuelbuta-FNN.pdf>

Likewise, several educational talks were given to children and adolescents in Curanilahue and the surrounding area (Figure 2).

An educational guide on the fungi documented in the surveyed sectors is being finalized, which will be published and distributed free of charge in schools, libraries, among others. A poster and printed material were also produced and will be handed out at the end of the project.



Figure 1. Launching of the field guide "Biodiversidad de Nahuelbuta".



Figure 2. Educational talk on Fungi kingdom aimed at children at School D-758 "Ramiro Roa" of the Curanilahue commune.