

Project Update: July 2011

In January 2011 we started the second experiment to investigate how seed removal caused by the selective logging of the *Araucaria* affects the small mammals. We are monitoring eight forested areas (0.56 ha each) where the *Araucaria* was selectively logged, using an experimental design almost similar to the employed in 2010. The only difference is that *Araucaria* seeds will be experimentally added to the areas and not removed, to test if they are a limiting resource. Small mammals were sampled in January and March 2011 (previously to experimental seed addition) and in May and July 2011 (periods of seed addition). Seeds were added to four of the eight areas; each area received 100 kg of seeds in May and 100 kg in July.

During the four sampling periods, we recorded 1252 captures of 559 individuals from at least nine species of small mammals, with a capture success of 22%. Two additional samplings will be carried out in the period after seed addition (September and November 2011), to analyse the effects of seed addition on populations and communities of small mammals.