



Short communication

Records of a few rare mammals from northeastern Peru

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During 18 months (July 1997 to December 1998) small mammals were collected near Iquitos, Peru, for certain research projects. Sampling was conducted at the Estación Biológica Allpahuayo (S 3°58'; W 73°25'), a 3000 hectare field station operated by the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Peruana (IIAP), 25 km south of Iquitos, Department of Loreto, in northeastern Peru. The climate is tropical with a mean annual temperature of 26°C; the highest average monthly temperature (31°C) occurs in November and the lowest (22°C) in July (SALATI 1985). Average rainfall is 2945 mm per year, with a slightly drier season from June to September (JOHNSON 1976). The elevation of the station ranges from 110 m to 180 m above sea level.

Over 1000 mammals were collected and prepared. Concerning our knowledge on their distribution several of these specimens represent substantial range extensions for a few species, whereas others are records of mammals not frequently recorded in mammalian surveys. The following accounts summarize information about the species of this region not yet recorded as well as what is already known about the species distributions (EMMONS 1997; EISENBERG and REDFORD 1999). Any measurements (mm) are given using the standard sequence of to-

tal length, tail length, hind foot length, and ear length. Specimens are deposited at the Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, and the Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru. Preserved tissues (frozen) include heart, kidney, liver, spleen, lung, and muscle and are deposited at the Museum of Texas Tech University.

Philander opossum (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Philander andersoni* (Osgood, 1913)

The occurrence of these two species of opossum in the study area represents the first record of sympatry, as well as the first record of *P. opossum* north of the Amazon River this far east of the Andes (EMMONS 1997). FLECK and HARDNER (1995) also reported sympatry of these species in Jenerro Herrera, south of the Amazon River. However, Dr. J. L. PATTON of the University of California, Berkeley, examined photographs of the animals and determined that the *P. andersoni* had been misidentified and were in fact *P. mcilhennyi* (pers. comm.). The species identity of my specimens has been verified by cytochrome b sequence analysis conducted by Dr. PATTON. All 39 *P. opossum* were captured in disturbed habitat whereas 12 of 14 *P. andersoni* were cap-

tured in mature forests. *P. andersoni* was captured throughout the year; nursing females ($n = 2$) were obtained in April and October. The individual captured in April had two pouched young. *P. opossum* was only captured from July to January, with no captures in the spring. Nursing individuals ($n = 11$), with an average litter size of 4 (2–5), were obtained in July, August, and November.

Gracilinanus kalinowskii Hershkovitz, 1992

This tiny marsupial is extremely rare, known only from seven individuals, three from southern Peru and four from the Guyanan region (HERSHKOVITZ 1992; R. S. Voss, pers. comm.). One young female was captured on 20. 05. 1998 in a Victor rat trap baited with dried, salted fish. The trap was located on the ground in monte alto forest about a 3 h walk north from the road southwest of Iquitos. The animal weighed 4 g and measured 132-76-10-10. The identity of this specimen has been confirmed by R. S. Voss (pers. comm.). This capture represents a substantial range increase and suggests the distribution of this rare species may be quite broad within the Amazon Basin, from southern Peru to the Guyanas.

Monodelphis adusta (Thomas, 1897)

This species is currently known only from Panama and the eastern slopes of the northern Andes in Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador (EMMONS 1997), with a disjunct population in Madre de Dios in southern Peru (WOODMAN et al. 1995). Six individuals were captured in Allpahuayo. Females, with an average weight of 13 g (12–14 g), were substantially smaller than males, with a mean weight of 29 g (28–30 g). Average measurements for females were 130-40.5-12.5-11 (130/130-40/41-12/13-11/11) and for males 164-55-15-12 (157/172-52/57-15/16-11/12). Five of the animals were captured in pitfall traps with a drift fence, as described by Voss and EMMONS (1996). The remaining animal was taken in a Sherman trap baited with a peanut butter/pork fat mixture. They were captured in each of the three types of primary forest present in All-

pahuayo (VÁSQUEZ MARTÍNEZ 1997). No reproductive activity was detected for animals captured in the months of November, December, March (both females), May, and August. This represents the first record of any species of *Monodelphis* north of the Amazon River in the Iquitos area and a substantial range increase of *M. adusta*.

Scolomys melanops Anthony, 1924

This genus is known from less than 50 individuals and is suggested to be highly localized in its distribution (PATTON and DA SILVA 1995). It is not necessarily unexpected in the Iquitos area, and may be more widespread in the Amazon Basin than is presently recorded. A large series (24 individuals) was taken during 8 months, but not those of the dry season (June, July, August, and September), and in each of the three types of primary forest present in Allpahuayo (VÁSQUEZ MARTÍNEZ 1997). Eleven individuals were captured in pitfall traps and 9 were taken in Victor traps. Two were taken on fallen logs approximately 1 m high. A total of 5 females and 19 males was obtained, including 2 pregnant females with an average litter size of 2.5 (one each in March and April). Males in reproductive condition (average testes size of 3×6 mm) were captured in March, October, and November. This represents the largest series of *S. melanops* available (PATTON et al. 2000).

Galictis vitata (Schreber, 1776)

This species is broadly distributed throughout the Amazon Basin, but uncommon in its range (EMMONS, 1997). One adult male grison was brought to me by a local hunter on 14. 10. 1997. The animal was shot in upland monte alto forest. No measurements are available.

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