

## Spider Monkeys.

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Through 2005, only one species of monkey utilized the Firestone Reserve, the White-Faced capuchin, *Cebus capucinus*. Early in 2006, a small group of Spider Monkeys, *Ateles geoffroyi*, made their appearance. By summer, a troop of 5 or 6 Spider Monkeys were regularly seen on the property. The species appears to have been increasing its population size in the area, and is probably attracted to the FCRE because of the relatively high density of fruiting trees, especially Guava, that we have.

Howler monkeys were extirpated in the Barú area in the 1950's by a yellow fever outbreak, but have been slowly recolonizing from the south. They have now almost reached the south side of the Barú River, and we hope that in the future they will be able to cross this formidable barrier and enter the FCRE and Hacienda Barú reserves.

### Further Information

The Reserve website, which contains more technical details, is at:

<http://costarica.jsd.claremont.edu>

Information on the adjacent Hacienda Baru Reserve is at:

<http://haciendabaru.com>



"RICARDO", THE  
RESIDENT RICE RAT  
(*ORYZOMYS  
ALFAROII*)



## Summer Research Projects



In June 2006, 5 undergraduates arrived at the FCRE to begin two-month long summer research student-

ships funded by grants through the Mellon Foundation. Emily Haber returned from 2005 to continue her study of butterfly diversity in the various sub-habitats of the Reserve. Kelly Janes began a study of frog diversity, focusing

on automated digital recording of their calls. Callae Snively arrived laden with cage traps and

automated digital cameras to begin censusing the elusive, nocturnal small mammal fauna. Last but not least, Jenny Alaman-Zometa and Luanne Dobson set up the new laboratory facility as a water quality lab and began daily analyses of bacteriological quality and turbidity (which tells us about soil erosion) on streams within the FCRE, the Hacienda Baru, and in the Barú River.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ 5 undergraduate summer research projects have been completed..
- ◆ Spider monkeys are on the Reserve for the first time.
- ◆ The new lab, classroom, and dormitory facility have been completed.



## Ecology Center construction completed

As the summer research students arrived to begin their studies, the paint was barely dry on two new facilities; the Ecology Center and a student dormitory. The Ecology Center consists of a laboratory, a classroom, a secure storage room, toilets and showers. The adjacent dormi-

tory consists of two bunkrooms and a kitchen—dining area, located a few yards away from a small waterfall and plunge pool. The Ecology Center and Dormitory are con-

nected to the Program House a few hundred meters away



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Terciopelo (*Bothrops atrox*)

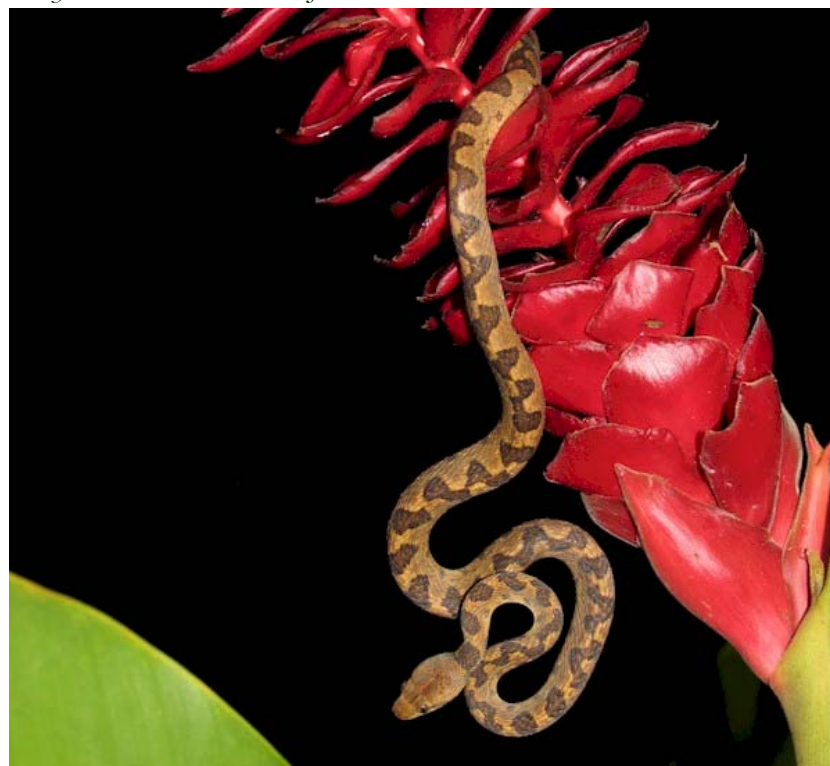


CRITTER  
GALLERY

A SELECTION OF THE  
BEST NATURAL  
HISTORY  
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM  
THE RESERVE

Cat-eyed  
snake,  
(*Leptodeira septentrionalis*)

Photos by Keith Christenson, June 2006

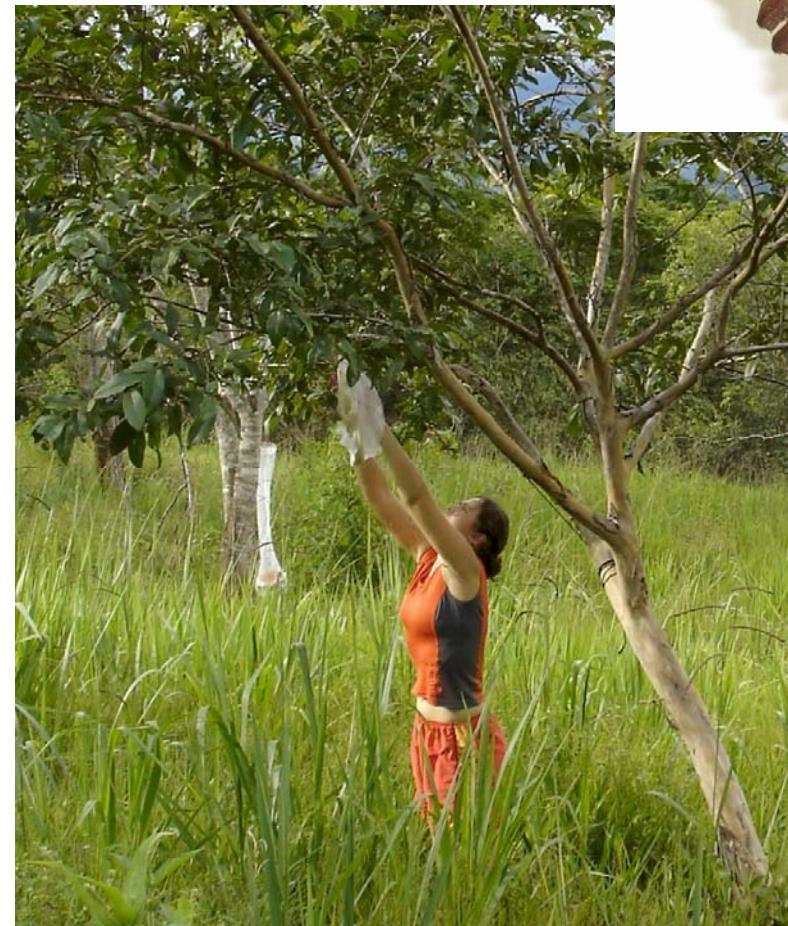


*Butterflies in the Reserve.*

Butterflies are sensitive indicators of environmental change. Beginning in the summer of 2005, undergraduate Emily Haber began a long-term study of the Firestone butterflies which she continued through the summer of 2006. Butterflies are attracted to bowls of rotting fruit and caught in specially designed traps, from which they can be

identified and released unharmed each day. To date, Emily has trapped and identified more than 1400 individual butterflies belonging to 54 different species. She has also developed a field guide to Firestone butterfly species, based on digital photographs of

her captures. The butterfly project will continue both in the short term to complete the list of possible species, and in the long term to monitor changes due to forest recovery on the Reserve,



*Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge: it is those who know little, and not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science.*

Charles Darwin