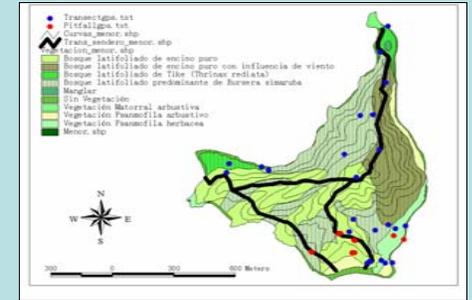


The Reptiles and Amphibian of Cayos Cochinos Pequeno, Honduras

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Introduction:

The Cayos Cochinos consists of two larger islands and 13 smaller cays. The islands are located approximately 31 kilometers north of the Honduran mainland.

In 1993 the Honduran Coral Reef Foundation was established and the Cayos Cochinos was declared a national reserve. Part of the mission of the HCRF is to monitor and protect the marine and terrestrial biodiversity within the reserve.

In 2004 we were invited by the HCRF and Operacion Wallacea to survey the reptile and amphibian community of Cayos Cochinos Pequeno.

Cayos Cochinos Pequeno is the second largest island (0.64km²) of the Cayos Cochinos. CCP is comprised of three main habitats (coastal scrub, palm grove, and oak hill forest).

Two previous surveys of island determined the presence of 14 reptile species and one amphibian species on the island (Ferrari, 2002; Wilson and Cruz, 1993).

Objectives:

- 1) Determine relative abundance and diversity of reptiles and amphibian on Cayos Cochino Pequeno
- 2) Determine the habitat associations of the various species on the island

Methods:

Visual Encounter Surveys -12 200m transects repeatedly surveyed

Pit Fall Traps -5 arrays (drift fence with 2 pitfall traps)

Opportunistic Encounters

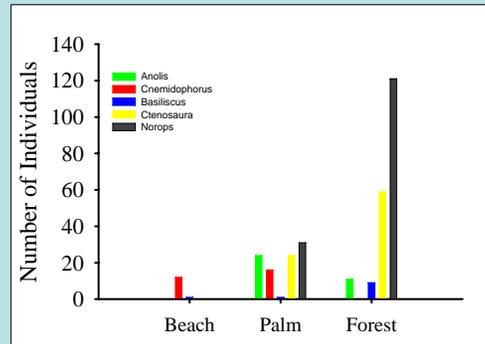


Figure 1. Results of observational transects for 5 most common lizard species

16 total non-marine species

3 new species to island

HABITAT ASSOCIATION:

Cnemidophorus limited to open canopy habitats

(beach and palm) likely due to thermal requirements

Norops lemurinus and *Ctenosaura melanosterna* occur in most available habitats

Boa constrictor population appears healthy

-previously thought to be extirpated due to poaching

Pitfall trapping and observational transects show similar results for terrestrial species



Genus and Species	Occurrence
<i>Leptotyphlops goudotii</i>	U
<i>Boa constrictor</i>	A
<i>Leptodeira septentrionalis</i> [†]	R
<i>Dryadophis melanolomus</i> [†]	C
<i>Oxybelis aeneus</i> ^{*†}	R
<i>Coniophanes imperialis</i> [†]	C
<i>Norops lemurinus</i>	A
<i>Anolis allisoni</i>	C
<i>Ctenosura melanosterna</i>	A
<i>Iguana iguana</i>	U
<i>Cnemidophorus lemniscatus</i>	C
<i>Basiliscus vittatus</i> [*]	C
<i>Sphenomorphus cherriei</i> [†]	C
<i>Phyllodactylus palmeus</i>	C
<i>Smilisca baudinii</i> [†]	C
<i>Kinosternon leucostomum</i> ^{*†}	R

A = Abundant; C = Common; R = Rare; U = Uncommon

* = New record for island

† = Opportunistic encounter

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