

## Botanical Survey of Reserva Don Luis



### Introduction

A rudimentary botanical survey took place at Monte Grande, the largest of some 10 'montes' at Reserva Don Luis, Cambyreta. This monte of some 4 hectares is fairly typical of the other montes, and is surrounded by marsh with a small body of semi-permanent water to the north-east. The object of the survey was to determine whether or not the monte has sufficient fruit to sustain a large avian frugivore, (*Crax fasciolata*).

The area has recently suffered a 10 month drought as well as a wildfire in June 2012 which burnt most of the grass at the reserve. The montes generally survived the fire quite well although the perimeters were all affected. The damage was probably mitigated somewhat by the extensive 'Caraguata' that surround each monte.

### Methods

The botanical survey was carried out by Patricia Haynes and Miranda Collett BSc on 25/26 November 2012, although some preparation took place beforehand to cut paths through the

fairly dense wood. Reserva Don Luis was a former cattle ranch up to two and a half years ago when it was purchased for the purpose of restoring habitat for the native species.

Although the monte has largely been free of cattle since then, there were signs that it had been frequented by cattle in the past, eg old paths which still exist, many trees/shrubs that appear to be about 2 years old.

Identification of the various flora was undertaken whilst walking through the cut paths and approximately one quarter of the monte was examined. Many of the trees were relatively easy to identify but due to the dense canopy and closely spaced trunks some proved more difficult. Photographs were taken and estimates made of the approximate percentages of each species by area. Books used were Guia de Plantas Argentinas del Jardin Botanico by Leonardo M Diaz Cillo and Ibera, Vida y Color by Maria L Petraglia de Bolzon and Arboles de Misiones (author unknown).

### Results

Below follows a list of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials which were noted.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Appx % by area</u>	<u>Puntas</u>
<b><u>Arboles</u></b>				
Ombu	Phytolacca dioica	Phytolaccaceae	1%	
Pindo	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Arecaceae	5%	Mamiferos y aves
Higueron	Ficus luschnathiana	Moraceae	5%	Cracidae
Pacara (Timbo)	Enterolobium contortisiliquum	Fabaceae	5%	Mono Caraya,

Mata Ojos Colorado	Pouteria gardneriana	Sapotaceae	5%	Fruto en verano
Mata Ojo	Pouteria salicifolia	Sapotaceae	5%	Fruto en verano o otono
Chichita	Schinus terebinthrifolius	Aracardiaceas	1%	Fruta para aves
Lapacho Negro	Tabebuia heptaphyllus	Bignoniaceae	0.1%	Mono caraya
Curupi	Sapium haemospermum or Sapium Longifolium	Euphorbiaceae	0.5%	Fruta para aves
Laurel Blanco	Nectandra angustifolia	Lauraceae	<u>5%</u>	Fruta para mamiferos y aves
Ambai	Cecropia pachystachya	Cecropiaceae	<u>2%</u>	aves
Tatane	Chloroleucon tenuiflorum	Leguminosae	<u>1%</u>	Mamiferos & aves
Sangre de Drago	Croton urucurana	Euphorbiaceae	1%	
Palo Vibora	Tabernaemontana catharinensis	Apocinaceae	0.1%	Aves
Fumo Bravo	Solanum granuloso-leprosum	Solanaceae	0.5%	Aves
Nangapiri	Eugenia uniflora	Mirtaceae	2%	Aves
Azota Caballo	Luehea divaricata	Tiliaceas	0.1%	Mono Caraya, picflores
Blanquillo	Sebastiania brasiliensis	Euphorbiaceae	0.1%	
Vasurina o Lanza Blanca	Chrysophyllum marginatum	Sapotaceae		
<b>Arbustos</b>				
Jasmin de Paraguay	Brunfelsia Australis	Solanaceae	10%	
Chulque blanco	Vassobia breviflora	Solanaceae		

Sarandi Colorado	Cephalanthus glabratus	Rubiaceae	0.1%	
<b><u>Planta Perenne</u></b>				
Tutia	Solanum sisymbriifolium	Solanaceae		Aves
Caraguata	Bromelia balansae	Bromeliaceae	5%	Zorros, Aguara Guazu, Picaflares
Catay Dulce	Polygonum punctatum	Polygonaceae		semillas
Piri	Cyperus giganteus	Cyperaceae	5%	

### Discussion

There is a diverse variety of botanical families and species in Monte Grande. The predominant species are Pindo, Higueron, Pacara, Mata Ojo, Laurel Blanco, Jasmin de Paraguay and Caraguata. Many of them appear to have been affected by the drought between December 2011 and October 2012 and the fire of June 2012 and show poor or late fruit.

The list is not comprehensive as access to many areas was difficult, but the majority of the larger plants are included. There were also several trees/shrubs which we were unable to identify.

At this stage it is not known which fruit is preferred by the species *Crax fasciolata* but many species consume the fruits and leaves of some of these plants eg *Alouatta caraya*, *Dusicyon gymnocerus*, *Chrysocyon brachyurus*, and many bird species.

It was observed that many of the trees and shrubs were late to flower and/or fruit which may be a result of the fire damage / drought. The rains started again in October 2012 and the weather pattern appears to be more typical of previous years. It is therefore probable that the fruit produce will improve next year (2013).

An additional survey could usefully be carried out in the autumn when the drought will probably not be a factor and more fruit is available.

## Photos

### Ombo



### Pindo



Palo Vibera



Laurel Crillo



Mata Ojos Colorado



Higueron



Pacara or Timbo



Caraguata

