



Predation of marine crab (*Aratus pisonii*) by Weid's black tufted-ear marmoset (*Callithrix kuhlii*) in mangroves of Comandatuba Island, Una, Bahia, Brazil.

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Antonio Silveira R. dos Santos
Programa Ambiental: A Última Arca de Noé
arca@ultimaarcadenoe.com.br

Resumo: O autor relata observação da predação de caranguejo marinho (*Aratus pisonii*) por saguí (*Callithrix kuhlii*) nos manguezais da ilha de Comandatuba, Una, Brasil

Since 2004 we have visited annually the Comandatuba Island (15 ° 21'15 ".71" S/ 38 ° 59'01 .11 "W), Una's county, Bahia, to make a check list of birds for our project "Chek-list of birds by locality in Brazil "(PROGRAMA AMBIENTAL: A ÚLTIMA ARCA DE NOÉ, 2011), where often we've seen groups of Wied's black tufted-ear marmoset or *Callithrix kuhlii* (Coimbra-Filho, 1985).

This monkey is a small primate of the Callitrichidae family, that occurs in southeastern Bahia State, from southern rio (river) das Contas to north of the rio (river) Doce (Auricchio, 1995), especially near the coast (Rylands, 1993).

As we have observed *C. kuhlii* inhabits the forests of restinga*, mangroves, cabruca** in Una's county, Bahia, on the island and the mainland side of Comandatuba, and in mangrove forests along the rio (river) Doce, in Canavieiras county. It's common in the region, including in that island, especially in their area of mangrove.

Seeing this animal in the mangroves intrigued us, since the biologist Mauricio Arantes, who works in the region for many years and collaborate with us, have seen *C. kuhlii* feeding arboreal mangrove crab locally called "Caranguejo marinho", scientifically named *Aratus pisonii* (H. Milne Edwards, 1837), we started to better observe its behavior, when we saw often this monkey hunting with relative ease these crustaceans. This feeding behavior was observed in our recent visit in the region (01/22/2011), when we were birding on a walkway that exists in the mangrove in that island, in Hotel Transamerica Ilha de Comandatuba. But, until this moment we could not get a good record of this fact.

It is known that *Callithrix kuhlii* is omnivorous, feeding fruits, flowers, nectar, seeds, insects and spiders (Animal Diversity, 2011), and is common among primates to make holes in tree bark to lick the exudates, as we already observed several times in *Callithrix jacchus* and *C. kuhlii*, which was also recorded and photographed, but feeding crabs seems unknown among scientists and/ or is a unusual behavior.

So, we think that the divulgation of our observation of predation by *Callithrix kuhlii* of the Wied's black tufted-ear marmoset (*Aratus pisonii*), through this simple note, will be made important to understand better this graceful primate, as well provide more evidence for its preservation, mainly because it is a animal with restricted distribution.

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Note: * woodlands and scrub patches at the coast

** planting of cacao agro-forestry, where the high forest is preserved for make shadow at the cocoa plantation, creating an environment propitious to the occurrence of many animals.

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Callithrix kuhlii in Mangrove Island Comandatuba-BA, where the author saw and filmed a group of individuals (8) predated on crabs. The movie won't be released because of the quality (photo of the author).