



Media release – **UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 10AM (GMT), WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH**

New monkey species discovered in the Amazon Rainforest

Flaming orange tail and ochre sideburns set new Brazilian monkey apart from its closest relatives.

Scientists have discovered a new species of titi monkey in Brazil, according to a recent paper published in scientific journal *Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia*¹.

Titis (genus: *Callicebus*) are new world monkeys found across South America. These tree-dwelling primates have long, soft fur and live in small family groups consisting of a monogamous pair and their offspring. Rather touchingly, they are often observed sitting or sleeping with their tails entwined.

In 2011, researcher Julio César Dalponte² spotted an unusual looking titi monkey on the east bank of the Roosevelt River, whose colouration did not match any known species. Intrigued, a team of scientists supported by the [Conservation Leadership Programme](#)³ headed back into the field to collect the information needed to formally describe what they believed to be a new species.

Over the course of a number of expeditions, the team recorded several groups of these unusual monkeys, whose ochre sideburns, bright orange tail and light grey forehead stripe set them apart from other known species in the genus.

Based on these morphological differences, scientists were able to formally describe the monkey as a new species, which they have named *Callicebus miltoni* (or Milton's titi monkey) in honour of Dr Milton Thiago de Mello, a noted Brazilian primatologist who is credited with training many of the country's top primate experts.

“More than luck”

C. miltoni is found in a small area of lowland rainforest south of the Amazon River in Brazil, and spends most of its time in the upper reaches of the forest, where it feeds on fruits.

Like its close relatives, *C. miltoni* lives in small groups consisting of a mated pair and their offspring. These groups are territorial and use warning calls to keep others at bay – they are particularly vociferous early in the morning and during the rainy season.

This species is not able to swim or cross mountainous terrain, which means that it is restricted to a small area, effectively hemmed in by a number of rivers and hills. This small

range could put the species at risk from human activities, particularly because only around a quarter of this area is protected.

Deforestation rates are high in this region, with forest fires also posing a significant threat. Added to this, the Brazilian Government's ongoing development programme includes several new hydroelectricity dams and an extension of the road system planned within the Amazon.

"It goes without saying that we are really excited about this new discovery," said researcher Felipe Ennes Silva², who collected the data for the new species description. "It is always thrilling to find something new in the Amazon, as it reminds us just how special this rainforest is and how lucky we are to have it on our doorstep.

"But it will take more than luck if we are to keep making scientific finds like this. The rainforest is under threat like never before, and it will take dedicated, hard work – not just by conservationists but by the government and every other sector of society too – to make sure that this forest ecosystem can continue to support a wide diversity of life and help regulate our planet's climate."

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For further information (including a copy of the original paper or high resolution photographs), please contact:

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Notes to editors:

1. Dalponte, J.C., Silva, F.E., Júnior, J.S.S., 'New species of titi monkey, genus *Callicebus* Thomas, 1903 (Primates, Pitheciidae), from Southern Amazonia, Brazil', *Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia*, [vol. 54(32): 457-472, 2014]. **Paper available on request.**
2. The first sighting of *C. miltoni* was made in 2011 by **Julio César Dalponte** from the [Instituto para a Conservação dos Carnívoros Neotropicais](#) (PRÓ-CARNÍVOROS). Initial analysis of the specimen collected suggested that this was likely to be a new species, and a brief report was published on the WWF website in August of that year, reporting this news (which was picked up by a limited number of press outlets). A subsequent news story announcing the formal description of the species was also [published](#) by WWF Brazil on 23 February 2015.
Data for the species identification were collected by **Felipe Ennes Silva** from the [Instituto de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá](#) (Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development).
The formal description was done by **José de Sousa e Silva Júnior** from [Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi](#).
3. Data for *C. miltoni* were collected during surveys funded by the Conservation Leadership Programme, which supports the professional development of conservation leaders.

About the Conservation Leadership Programme

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) is a partnership between [Fauna & Flora International](#), [BirdLife International](#) and the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) that promotes the

professional development of conservation leaders. Through training and mentoring, funding, and the provision of networking opportunities, the CLP ensures that these emerging leaders have the skills and knowledge required to address today's most pressing conservation issues.

For more information, visit www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org, or follow the CLP on [Facebook](#) and Twitter ([@CLPAwards](#)).

About Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development

The Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development was founded in April 1999. The Institute, which is a not-for-profit organisation funded and supervised by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, functions as one of the Ministry's research units. The Mamirauá Institute conducts research on a variety of subjects focused on biodiversity conservation, management of natural resources and sustainable development.

In 2004, the Mamirauá Institute began to establish research groups in order to bring together researchers, students and technical assistants, organised around the implementation of different types of research. Specialists also participate in these groups according to their experience and level of scientific expertise.

With technical assistance from the Mamirauá Institute, activities are carried out on the Mamirauá and Amanã Reserves through various programs including: Family Agriculture, Community Management, Fishing Management, Community Forest Management, Quality of Life and Community-based Tourism.

For more information, visit www.mamiraua.org.br/en-us or follow the Mamirauá Institute on [Facebook](#) and Twitter ([@InstMamiraua](#)).