

6-24-1991

Bolivia 1991 Field Notes

Terry Yates

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T. C. Yates
Journal
1991

Journal

Washington DC: 24 June 1991

Left DC at 7:45 on American for Miami. Government seats were oversold so they put me in 1st class. Limit was three bags with no carryon although brief cases did not count.

Met Syd Anderson and Scott Gardner in Miami and left for La Paz @ 11:30 also on American. Stopped in Lima Peru for a short period and arrived in La Paz @ 7:30. Cleared customs with the letter from the embassy and the official passport without event.

We were met by Jorge Salazar and Dr. Hwangarth (Werner). They took us to the Hotel Eldorado. The cost is 32 dollars/night for a double. Talked with Tim Kithan at 1030. Agreed to meet him & discuss his proposal from January.

25 June, 1991. La Paz Bolivia

Met Syd at 7AM for breakfast which is included in the room. Walked down the prado the a Cambio and changed money. The rate is 3.58 Bs to 1 dollar.

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T. L. Yates
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Took a Truque to the Museum. There met with Teresa and Jaime (the new director of collections) and discussed plans for the 12 students they want to send with us on several occasions. We decided to have the first group arrive on Sunday to go to Tarija. We also plan to send a small group to Iturza.

Had lunch with Jorge Salazar and went to meet with Darrell L. McIntyre at US AID. His office is on the 1st floor of the Banco Industrial. After clearing their security system we had a long meeting with McIntyre including a security briefing. We scheduled a later meeting on our return to La Paz (358-191). We also need to meet with Beatriz O' Brian when we return as well. She is in charge of training support for students to come to the states.

After that we met with Carlos E. Quintela. He is the minister of the Environment. Tel 36 164? and FAX 39/724. His family is moving to Fall's Church.

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26 June, 1991. Bolivia: La Paz.

Went to the airport at 5:30 AM and caught a LAB flight to Santa Cruz. Arrived around 8 AM, no one present to meet us so we took two taxis to the Zoo. Met Otto Carlos and he gave us two rooms above his office. They are old lab rooms but pretty nice (relatively speaking).

After putting our stuff in the rooms we went to Combi where Scott bought a \$4000 truck to make sure the money had arrived and we owned the truck. We had lunch at the Lido and Syd went to Cevichop while Scott + I went to a bank to check on opening an account. Earlier we had met with (Happy) Erwin Peredo of Auto Venta (340218 or 342606(A)) about buying a club cab pickup 4x4 or Landcruiser.

We went to Banco Biz Beni where Scott had wired the money for the other trucks. There we talked to Alfonso Herrera Tellez



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TV photos
1991

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who heads the department of Capital & negotiations. He told us it was possible to open an account only in dollars if we preferred but if we did not have alien resident status we would need clearance from immigration for an account lasting over 30 days. We gave him photocopies of our passports and supporting documents & he said he would call. We walk a couple of blocks down the street to Magri Turismo Ltda. and talked to the owner Mario Brisi D. We tried to get \$10,000 cash from Scott's AExpress corporate card but they would only allow \$400.

We went back to the Zoo and Otto took us to look at more cars. Sent a letter to the crew in the field via Emma telling them to get to town. Had dinner with Marcelo Barros & discussed the future and his past work.

27 June, 1991. Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Were awoken by Zoo animals at dawn. Spider monkeys in trees just outside our window. We took a taxi

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to the hotel Cortez for breakfast. A room for 4 here now is almost \$80. Returned to Zoo at 9:00 to meet Marcello + found a note from Frosty that they were here. After discussing plans with Forest Davis, Muriel Campbell, John Dunnam and looking at Scott's new F4000 Ford Chollo truck we went around town trying to get the vehicle license. No luck. Finally paid \$110 to Combi to have someone do it for us.

After that we went to the university and met with Teresa Centurion and Marcello Zaller re: a new convenio. They wanted some changes to the agreement including more equipment and more financial support for the students. We also discussed specimen disposition (not 30%). Marcello wants to know what goes to La Paz. He will produce a draft and we will review later.

Arrived @ the zoo after looking at another car to find all of the crew including Eduardo Salina unloading at the zoo. Had dinner and pulled tissues on a road killed sloth.



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Dr. Miguel Justiniano Lenz
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Santa Cruz
Bolivia

T. L. Yates
1991

Journal

28 June, 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz

Awoke at 6:30 to our zoo alarm clock and stepped out into a brisk South Wind (sur raso). We were to see Marcello at 7 and have a meeting with the Dean at 7:15.

Met with Dr. Miguel Justiniano Henz, Dean of the Vet School (34-3661 or 343776) FAX 591-3-342160.

We discussed two projects, developing a protocol for animals that die at the Zoo and working towards establishing a breeding program for *Dasyproctids* as part of an MS program for Marcello. We noted that an appraisal of the systematics of this group in Bolivia would be necessary prior to establishing breeding colonies from the wild.

Went to Entel and wasted two hours trying to call a travel agent in Florida for Teresa Centurion. Syd got thru on the phone but his three minutes were up before he could give them the information. They told him to call back collect but Entel would not make collect call. We finally gave up and called Justine & had her do it.
Entel No and L.L.L. L.L.L. required.

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Bolivia: Santa Cruz, 28 June 1991

Met Marcelo at 3 and went to the park headquarters to meet with Nester Ruiz. He was initially a bit pissed because he had changed the meeting time but we were not notified. He said he called the zoo.

After initial formalities we asked if he could take a crew of 5 to Ananchaca on Monday at 4pm. He said he could but we should send our equipment by truck on Saturday. He suggested that we work out of the park station and walk to the Seraniz if we wanted to. In the latter case he offered to provide a portable radio and porters for the trip. Meanwhile Scott is still looking for a vehicle.

We met Mike Bennett @ his office. He had just arrived from a camp past Robert with a 9 month old Jaguar and what appears to be a baby Giant Armadillo. We all had dinner with Mike @ the pizza place and he gave us an after dinner tour of the city.

TL Yaka
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29 June, 1991, Bolivia: Santa Cruz

We awoke to another perfect day weather-wise and began organizing material for the field. We pack until about 2am the boxes that we going ahead to Huanchaca so very little was required to get ready for that trip. Otto came by about 10 and went with me to get chloroform. It was hard to acquire because it is used in the processing of cocaine. We showed them the letter from the Embassy, WMA, the Zoo, the University, and gave them mine + Otto's business cards. Spent most of the day buying tools with Scott and his new found friend Rolando. He is a car dealer here and speaks very good English. He has been helping Scott for two days find a truck. (Roland Borda - 342115; Pepin Parada.) We visited a number of markets including Alto San Pedro where stolen goods are sold. Quite a place.

We had dinner @ Marcello Zalles house and processed fucos until 3:30 Am.

T.H. Yates
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30 June, 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz

Had breakfast at a Salteñas shop on the plaza then Scott & I went to Entel to call home. Took 2 hours but I finally got through to Nancy. Found out that Hudson Gardner had passed out and stopped breathing. Took artificial respiration for 20 minutes. OK now but no one knows what caused it. Scott called Rolando and he picked us up and took us to his house. There he called Suzy and Scott was able to find out how things were. His wife Rhea told us that Oxy-Bolivians had a dedicated line direct to Bakersfield California. We could probably use it in emergencies. Had lunch with the Bardas and returned to the deposito to pack for the pending trip.

1 July, 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz

Awoke @ 3:30 to see off Frosty and Tow. They were met by two Bolivian students (one La Paz + one Santa Cruz) and their driver from the park. After breakfast I went to Comsar while others dispersed

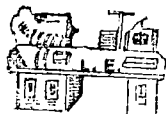


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"LUCHO"

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de tren de Rodaje de Tractores Oruga Fresado de Engranajes
Rectificación de Tambores Puntualidad y Precisión

Luis Escóbar M.
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PROPIETARIO

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Santa Cruz
Bolivia

TC Yates
1981

Journal

throughout the city. Scott went with Rolando to try to buy another vehicle, change oil on our truck etc. Syd & Jorge went to the University to get tents etc. The rest went to buy food and supplies.

We are hoping to get to the field by tomorrow. I'll be amazed. At Emicruz (Consur) I met Roxanna, Mike's head secretary. She sent a PAX to Davis and New Mexico for us. Mike arrived around 9:30. His home # is 35-15-54. He lives there with Fátima Díaz. After sending the PAXes I went to Banco Big Beni and talked to José Antonio Sandoval A. After much time the account was established. It is a checking account but maintained only in dollars. The # is 1007055176. I put 20 dollars for me & 20 for Scott in the account. We hope to use it primarily for field expenses so Syd doesn't have to carry so much cash & so we have a place to wire money for field work here.

After the bank I went to Magisterio for tickets to Copacabana & Foz de Iruya - La Paz for me, Scott, & Jorge. Then back to Mike's for lunch. With us was a Mexican, Carlos Ferrones,

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who works for Mike. He has relatives in the Yacatana.

After lunch I proceeded to the machine shop near the Zoo and collected our fence poles and barbed pole. They had done an excellent job and even brazed the joints. Cost was 100 B's. The owner Mr. Luis Escobar (32-86-01) has two daughters who want to go to the states as exchange students.

At the Zoo everyone was reassembling after conducting their appointed tasks. Lots of food had been purchased, distilled water was being run at Cenetrap etc. Scott got mud flaps installed on the truck, had the CB installed, got the truck washed, and had a tool box made.

2 July, 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz.

Still in Santa Cruz but we should be able to leave tomorrow AM. I have to go with Otto at nine to meet with the narcotics police. It seems that they have to give us permission to transport Chloroform. We went to the Narco people and showed them a set of our papers. We were told to return in the afternoon to retrieve them. We also had to make copies over we received

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them for the Pharmacy that sold us the chloroform. I also opened our bank account with 40 dollars. It seems that interest rates are negotiable but there is a \$300 minimum balance. We made a deal with the bank to waive the service charge in exchange for no interest on the forty we had deposited.

3 July, 1980. Bolivia: Santa Cruz;

Began loading the truck for the field. In the middle of it all Scott returned to report that his grant had not arrived on campus & the University was not willing to advance the money for a second vehicle. Given the short notice I decided to forget trying to obtain the 2nd camioneta and go to the field. After the usual running around for last minute items we finally headed south west on the Cochabamba highway.

7/4/91.0
5
6
7
South of town we head south (to the left) on the road to Argentina. Same road as last year & in about the same conditions. Since I rode in the back of the truck a road log was not possible (but see last year's notes for details). Gardner & Andersons

T. L. Yates
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also kept road logs this year.

We drove until 5:00 pm where we stopped at a little house called Hacienda ^{el} Pelicano. We set 2300 Germanis in and around the Hacienda. Weather is clear & warm. The habitat is ~~to~~ lightly disturbed and mostly grassland with a few scattered trees. We spent most of the evening getting organized and giving the students instructions on how to keep notes, fill out the field data book, etc.

The names of the participants this round is as follows:

Terry L. Yates (TLY)

Scott L. Gardner (SLG)

Santa Cruz { Lila Alejandra Quiroz Bacherer (L.A.S.B.)
Emma Luna - Segarra Quinteros (ELP)

Cometop - Santiago Garcia Herros (S.G.H.)

Sydney Anderson (SA)

Maricel Campbell (M.C.)

Eduardo Palma (E.P.)

Jorge Salazar Bravo (JSB)

La Paz { Sandra...
Angelica...
Empede...



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4 July, 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz;
Estancia El Pelicano.

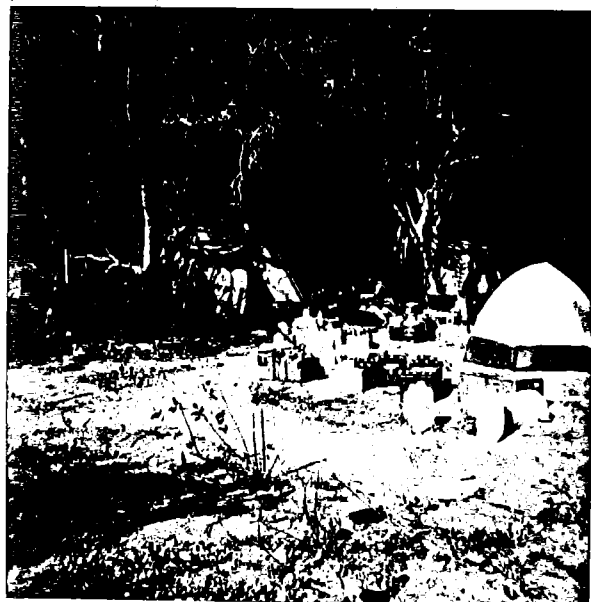
Took lots of mice. Mostly ~~Culler~~ Calomys
collarensis, a few Akodon sp., 1 Marmosa cinerea
~~and~~ one monodelphis and one Rattus ratus.
Got on the road @ 9:42 am (started
packing at 6:45).

Crossed the Rio Grande @
11:24 and cleared checkpoint on
the other side. Habitat turning to
thorn scrub with cacti and purple trees
in full bloom. Had lunch @ restaurante
Camirio. This time the previously dry
Rio is full of water. We crossed
again.

At 506 we turned right on the
"old" road & found a campsite a couple of
km's inside. Set out 300 shrews &
one bat net. Alejandra & Emma also set
out five tomahawks. No bats were taken.
The night was again clear & warm.

5 July, 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz;
the road to Argentina

Got away faster this time 8:30 and
arrived in Camiri @ 11:00. Here we bought
meat (two full tenderloins), ice, & bread. Had
lunch and headed south again on the road
Also met with Militaries & several record books.



T.L. Yates
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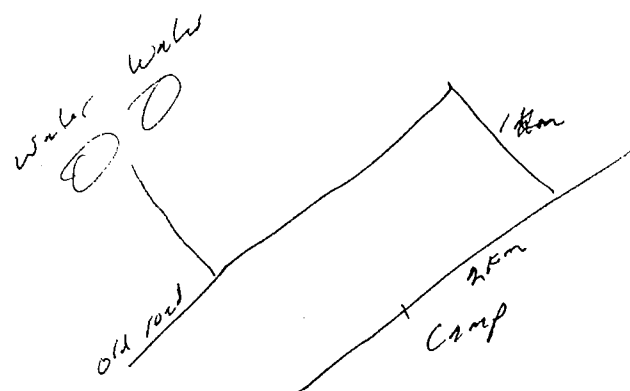
to Milla Montes. (km 2802 headed S)

4:30 pm still headed south. Full blown thorn scrub/cactus habitat. Very dry. At 4:36 pulled into Boyabee. A small dusty village. We hit two check points here. One police + one military. The police said where we were going was very dangerous and we should not go. They reported terrible roads, lots of tigers etc. The military said no problem but they wanted us to register with them "just in case."

Not far out of town we stopped + shot a Conepatus rex. Lots of Ctenomys mounds + sandy soil. About 2 hours later we were in pure chaco habitat no doubt complete with seed ticks. Set up camp here for three days. We put in the first 200 Sherman's.

6 July 1991. Bolivia: Santa Cruz;
53 km E Boyabee 600m. 20° 27' S,
62° 50' W.

Another perfect day. I took a walk to survey the area in daylight. Met the owner of most of the surrounding land Juan Carlos Sanchez. Took one ~~more~~ Thylamys elegans in the Sherman's



FLYak's
1991

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as well as a Monodelphis and a Gracomy gairdneri. Spent most of the day processing animals from the previous localities. By afternoon Scott + I drove E 2km the north + west to a lime camp with a waterhole. (see map). There we set 2 tomahawks + one steel trap. Scott + Marcel came back later + set 2 nets + ^{two} boxes of shermans. Scott + I also set two more tomahawks along the road. no sets.

7 July, 1991.

Caught 4 Calomys near the water but that was all. After processing these Scott, Jorge, Eduardo, + I headed back west with Alejandro, Emma, +

Santiago to try + trap some Tucos. ~~951.5~~
(^{odometer} 951.5) 955.5 a small house on right

956.1 - road on right

957. - another

lots of Boboche trees



967.6 - climbing out of chaco

974.2 - topped ridge

982.0 - Tucu mounds.

Found a camp site around 5pm + set out 15 tucu sets. The

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size of the tunnels looks like C. conoveri. Habitat here is dry but more open than the chaco below. Soil is more sandy. The weather remains great. Ticks & Sweets bees plentiful.

8 July 1991. Bolivia: 20 km S Boyuibe (~~camp~~).

Around dawn a large truck stopped on the road near camp. After a couple of ~~shots~~ calls a 45 cal. pistol was discharged into the air. This got the camp moving. Fortunately it was only a military group wanting to know what we were doing.

Total catch including Tico traps and 120 Sherman was 2 Grammys.

A little after noon the rest of the crew arrived from the lower camp. They had a number of animals including one Galea. Since it was so late we decided to spend the night where we were. Scott, Maribel, & I set 120 shermans across the road in overgrazed thorn-scrub with patches of ground dwelling Bromeliads. We used the usual oats with vanilla & tuna for bait. Around 10 pm we ran the Tico traps and caught one

T. L. Yates
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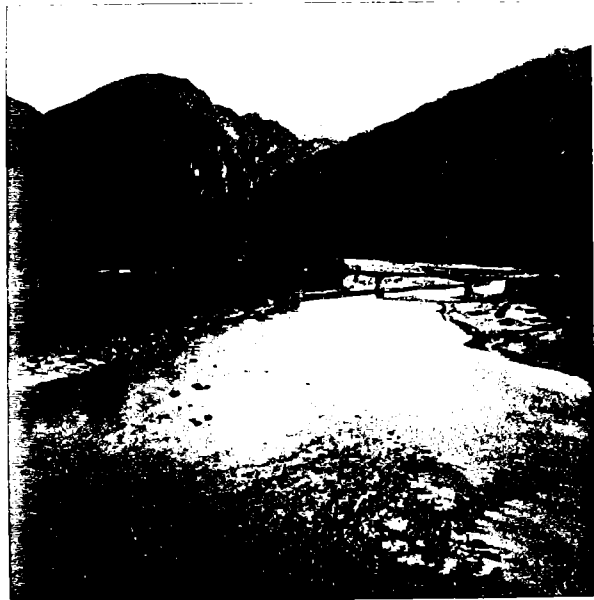
Journal

Ctenomys conoveri.

9 July, 1991, Bolivia, Santa Cruz, 26 km
E Boyuibe.

Our 120 shermans yielded one Pharomys. Several other Craomys were also taken. We went ahead and processed the tuco and other ~~rodent~~ animals and broke camp.

We headed west to Boyuibe then south towards Valle Monte. The road was in reasonable condition but it was still slow going. Just before dark we made camp by a small stream 1 km south of Camatindyo. There we set shermans, 5 tomahawks + 1 bait net. Scott & I set 80 shermans by the stream to the west around an old Yucca field. The field was overgrown with tall grass and one chili plant full of red chili. To the south a forested hill rose sharply to another cultivated field above. At that field a farmer had punched a small hole in the main PVC pipe that supplied the city. He was madly planting tomato plants in the small circle that was being watered. The field was surrounded on 2 other sides by a fence. We took a much needed bath in the stream.



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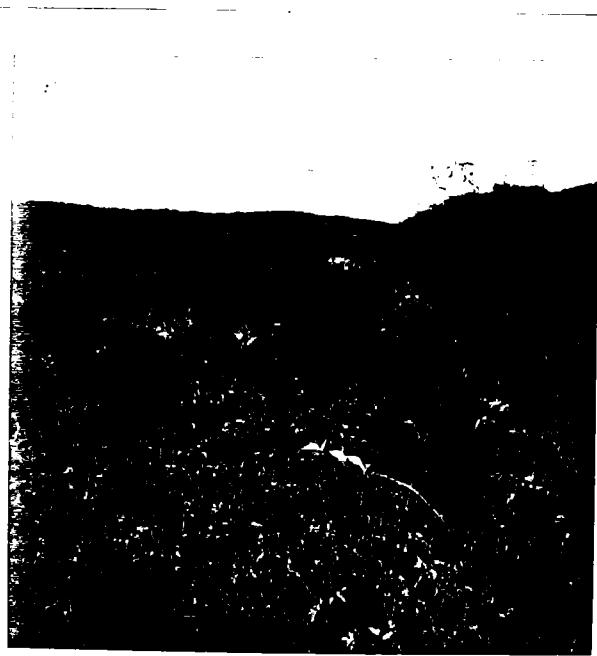
10 July, 1991. Bolivia: Chuchisaca;
1.6 km South Camatiudy.

Scott & I took a combined total of 16 animals including 2 *Marxipipha*, 1 *Kodon*, *Oligoryzomys*, *Dryomys* and *Calomys*. The bat net produced a *Noctilio*, *Sturnira*, + *Tadarida* ^(*Echidionops*) *macrodon*. We kept the animals alive and headed south to Villa Montes. There we resupplied with all needed food and other items and headed west. At 5 we stopped in an arid dusty local at 800m.

We set approx 200 Sherman's & 2 Truo sets. These were all that we could find and I am not totally convinced they were tucos. That night we saw an army ant front and lots of scorpions. Miserable place. We processed the animals from the last locality until 3 AM.

11 July, 1991. Bolivia: Tarija; Tapuma
1500m, 21° 26' S, 63° 55' W.

loaded and continued west.



TL Yates
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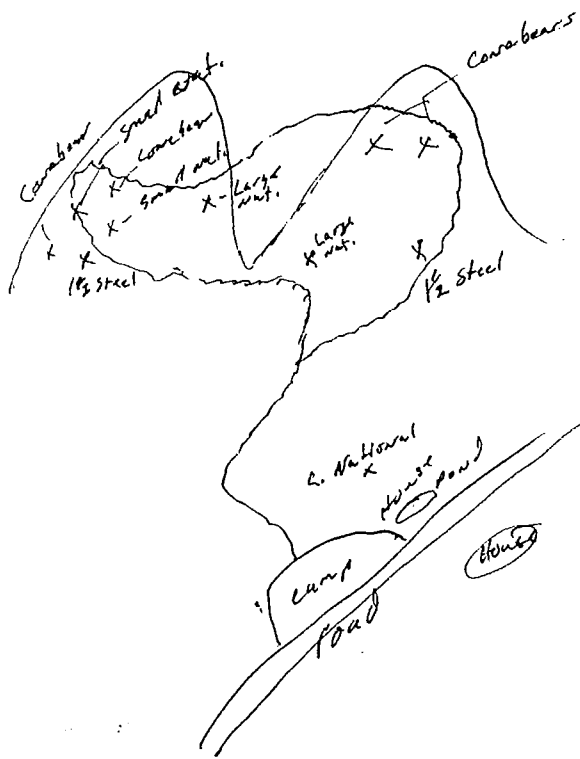
The road is extremely steep and winding as we traverse valley after valley. We passed a village called Paltos Blancos and cleared a Forestales checkpoint. At about 2 pm we arrived at Tapeena at 1500m. We set out 400 shermans and set up a desert camp for a change.

This site is covered in clouds and fairly lush. A light rain fell all night.

12 July, 1991, Bolivia: Tarija;
Tapeena.

Awoke to a cold foggy morning.
Total catch was 18 animals. We also got a fresh killed ~~opossum~~ Bidelphis and a skunk skeleton as pickups nearby. Others included 8 Oligoryzomys (probably 2 species), 1 Thylamys elegans, 4 Akodon sp., 1 Craomys sp., 1 Calomys sp. - Marieel checked her line in the afternoon and took a Monodelphis kusksi which is the third known specimen. It was taken on the upper edge of a rocky ravine in rocks, leaves, trees, and rocks.

After karyotyping all specimens but the Oligo's I left with Alejandra, Emma, Scott,



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and Santiago to set traps for larger mammals. Habitat here is highly variable. Vegetation consist of large moss covered trees on the upper slopes and in the smaller valleys. Epiphytes are common as are ferns. Interspersed are lots of rock outcrops and what appears to be limestone. We spread a variety of national, steel, & cone bear traps around the two peaks (Hills) to the south of the camp. Most were baited with fish except one 1/2 steel trap which was baited with chicken entrails. Scott found some *Tucos* on steep hillside & set 7 sets & I set one. Later we took 1 *Ctenomys* which I karyotyped even though it was dead.

13 July, 1991. Bolivia: Tarija; Tapécula.

Catch improved although the weather did not. The large animal traps yielded 1 *Didelphis albiventris* in the first one near the house. (A large national baited with canned mackerel).

The shermans yielded 1 *Oryzomys nitidus*, 8 *Oligoryzomys*, 8 *Akodon*, 1 *Oxymycterus*, 1 *Rhipidomys conesi*, 1 *Calomys*, 1 *Thylogomys*, 1 *Geomys* sp.

We also took one *Desmodus rotundus* and an *Artibeus pluviosus* in a bat net set the 12th by the pond next to camp. The clouds had settled

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in during the night and it rained quite a bit. The temperature dropped a lot. The weather remained cold all day. The day before we were able to contact Frosty & John in Huanchaca on ~~the~~ Scott's radio. We have also been in frequent contact with Mike Bennett's office via radio. The frequency at the park is 8.450 ^{USA} & Mike's is 8.145. Processed until 2 am.

14 July, 1991. Bolivia; Tarija, Tapacua

The large mammal traps took another Didelphis in the first trap which I had replaced. We also took a Conepatus rex in a large national high on the first hill. We brought it back to camp alive. The shermans yielded more Oligoryzomys, Akodon, Rhizodomya. Mariel put in 6 pitfalls where she took the Monodelphis in hopes they might fall into these as shrews do.

I went with Scott to set more Chenomya traps in a small cañon near by. The tucos were living on incredibly steep cliffs which the lady who lived there said was the only place you could find them. In many

To L. Yates
1991

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cases it took two people to set a trap. The tannets, however, could be opened by hand and we only plugged a few inches. We set 14 sets in and around the small cove. Tacos were again localized here and no other were found although we spent several hours searching further in nearby coves and hillsides.

15 July 1991.

Trap success was low and we took nothing in the Carnivora or Tacos traps. Scott caught one Oryzomys in a line of 20 shrew traps by the Tacos traps. Mirel took another Rhipidomys and others caught Rhodops + Oligoryzomys. We went ahead + Wangby and 8 of the animals and pulled tissues on the rest. At about 1:30 we broke camp and drove to Tarifa. It took 7 hours + 50 minutes to drive to Tarifa. There we stopped at the Plaza So Alejandra to call someone about a house. Since they were not at home we got rooms in a hotel nearby. It is called Hotel Prefectoral. A room with 4

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Beds costs 100 B's, and a boush
costs 80 B's.

The room ~~was~~ ^{were} adequate with
baths & "hot" water in each. We
moved in & took showers. Nothing was
open at 12:00 on a Monday night but
we found the Fiesta de La Paz in
streets nearby & managed to find food
there.

16 July, 1991. Bolivia: Tarija;
Tarija, 1850 m.

Spent most of the day handling
various record keeping chores and
running errands. We tried several
times to call the zoo in Santa Cruz
and get Frosty with us. We
did get Lu Xanna but she could not
find him either. We also went
by the C.A.B. office to confirm our
flight & were told to call the
next day to see if the flight was
on time. Had a great outdoor lunch
at the hotel at their grill called
the Bringsa lesson. At 4:45 Otto
Frosty and John Arrived and Angie,
Sandra, and ~~Donada~~ left.

Frosty & John did well on

T. G. Yates
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Huanabaca. Most of the 2000 animals they got were bats but they had a good series of Canis from the Pampas and a Brazilian dog they ran over on the way home. We had a bachelor party for Jorge and went to bed.

17 July, 1991. Tarija

Marcel went to ENTEL and met Eloy Anello, President of Board of Trustees, Universidad Nür

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591-3-333939 office

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in Santa Cruz. He wants to discuss setting up a natural science program with us.

We spent the morning yacking, xeroxing NK pages, etc. At 3 Scotty, Jorge & I went to the Airport & caught a LAB flight to LA PAZ at 4:45. Actually of course the flight didn't leave until 6:10.

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We arrived in La Paz one hour later, got off the plane & found that Leo had forgotten to unlock the door into the terminal. We all stood around a while & wait for someone to find the key.

We took a taxi to the Hotel Copacabana (Tel 351240 or 352244) and got a double room on the 6th floor for about \$29/night. The hotel is very nice with a good view of 16 de ~~Septiembre~~ Julio street & the park, hot water, telephone and fairly good beds.

It rained lightly for several hours. Scott & I had dinner at a nearby restaurant & returned to the hotel to find Marcello Zalles waiting. We talked until midnight & went to bed.

18 July, 1991. Bolivia: La Paz, La Paz

Went to the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural to ~~meet~~ meet with Tim Killeen and review the herbarium there. We met around 10am and went to the Institute of Ecology. Much of the facility has been built

✓ Yates
1991

Journal

by the Missouri Botanical Garden and they are contributing ~10k/yr to the Herbarium here mostly for labor costs. Killen is completing and is funded floral project and with ty. of supplemental AID funding for a project started by Dr Smith of MBB who did here last year. The herbarium looks in very good shape and the setup is extremely functional for specimen preparation on site.

After touring the rest of the Museum we had lunch with Killen. Entel at Sheraton.

FAX - 591-2-357 352

Home - 792987 - Put on FAX

Cecilia Rury (Director of Programs)
Carlos Arce - Director
Both are Chemists.

At 3 we met with Senoz Sarmiento at the Museum & discussed the BBS. He was highly supportive of the entire concept.

At 8⁰⁰ we went to the House of Carlos Quintela the current Minister of the Environment for discussion.

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1991

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There we discussed the BBS at length. Carlos mentioned that he might be able to come up with \$3000 in September for publication of the Ambaro paper. He also wants to discuss the possibility of grad school in New Mexico. His current apartment is on the 9th floor of the Xerox building but he does not expect to be in Bolivia much more than about 1 year more.

19 July 1991. Bolivia: La Paz;
La Paz

Met with Beatrice O'Brien at AFD at 10 AM. She gave us information regarding how to apply for student + technical aid for Bolivians. We also met with Eduardo Mindiola and got application forms for Marcelo Zalles to apply to work in NM on his Masters.