



2021 Eagle Hill Institute Online Natural History Seminars

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COSTA RICAN NATURAL HISTORY AND CULTURE: An Evolutionary Perspective

Dr. Gregorio Dauphin
January 20th – 29th, 2021

Costa Rica is a biodiversity and conservation hotspot of worldwide recognition. About 5% of all organisms of the Earth are present in this country which is not bigger than Texas or ca. 0.01 % of the total land surface. Over 30% of the country area is under protected status.

During this seminar we will explore the bewildering biodiversity of Costa Rica by examining the particular physical characteristics of each region of the country, such as geology, climate, and the history that shape their biodiversity and the relationships among its components. We will analyse the development of different human cultures in this natural context through different epochs.

We will try to answer questions such as: What causes have brought about the greater richness and variety of the tropical faunas and floras, compared to faunas and floras of temperate and cold lands? How does life in tropical environments influence the evolutionary potentialities of the inhabitants?

Should the tropical zone be regarded as an evolutionary cradle of new types of organisms which sends out migrants to colonize the extratropical world? Do the tropics serve as a sanctuary for evolutionary old age where organisms that were widespread in the geological past survive as relics?

Conceived as a photographic journey through the different regions of Costa Rica, this Seminar is largely based on the instructor's own photographic material and carried out with interactive zoom online lectures and key readings to understand general topics of tropical diversity and evolution.

Scheduling Details

Jan. 20, Jan. 22, Jan. 25, Jan. 27, Jan. 29

7 PM – 9 PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:
<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

About the Instructor

Gregorio Dauphin (adriaendauphin@gmail.com), is currently a research associate in the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica. His bryological research has included bryophyte inventories and workshops in different countries including Florida, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia. His taxonomic expertise has centered in the tropical family Lejeuneaceae, especially the genus *Ceratolejeunea* for which he published a treatment for Flora Neotropica.

