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PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS



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**COMPOSITION AND SPECIES RICHNESS OF THE HERPETOFAUNA OF A
COSTA RICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**

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The campus of the University of Costa Rica in Limón port city, Costa Rica, known as Sede del Caribe (SC), includes a secondary forest of ca. 40 years old. This forest holds a great potential for environmental education, research, and recreation, although no reliable information on the species present is available. The forest is rarely visited and neither students or staff of SC know the biodiversity of the area. Our aim was to determine the composition and species richness of the herpetofauna present in the campus of SC, in order to provide scientific information and generate educational material that can be distributed to potential visitors. We first collected data on the species of Limón port city area by reviewing the literature. Then, we requested photographs of herpetofauna to students and staff of SC and carried out diurnal and nocturnal samplings to collected data on amphibians and reptiles present in the campus. We have counted 18 amphibians and 42 reptiles inhabiting the campus of SC, representing respectively 25,7% and 37,5% of the species reported for Limón port city. We received a total of 483 photographs from 42 people, 133 photos of amphibians corresponding to 13 species and 350 photos of reptiles corresponding to 25 species. Our samplings produced a total of 15 amphibian and 23 reptile species. These data demonstrate that our project focused the attention of students and staff of the SC towards the herpetofauna of the campus, proving that their collaboration significantly increased our species list. They also indicate that more sampling is required to account for all possible species in the area.