

MONKEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for taking time to participate in our primate research. We want to understand your observations and experience, so please be as descriptive as possible.

Date _____ What time of day did you begin to hike? _____ Duration of your hike (e.g., 2.5 hours) _____

What trails did you use? _____

Did you see any monkeys? _____ If so, please tell us what species (spider or white-faced monkeys) _____

Where (see map in booklet) _____

How many _____ What were they doing _____

If they were moving, in what direction _____

Anything else you'd like to share with us _____

Thank you! Please deposit this questionnaire in the collection box as you exit the reserve. Thank you for returning the booklet and pencil, too. We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve.

Participate in primate research while you hike today.

We need help finding monkeys!

Welcome to the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve. We are conducting a long-term study of the monkeys of Cloudbridge. We are interested in documenting where monkeys occur within the reserve, the size of their populations, and how they make use of the forest. As you may have read elsewhere, portions of the landscape at Cloudbridge are undergoing great changes due to an exciting and successful reforestation project. As the habitats within the reserve change, the types of creatures that live in the reserve also change. We want to document how monkey populations respond to changes in the Cloudbridge landscape, especially with regard to reforested areas. **Would you like to help us collect information on the monkeys at Cloudbridge?** If so, please take a Monkey Booklet, a Monkey Questionnaire, and a pencil with you on your hike today, and return them afterward. Thank you. Your assistance is very important and greatly appreciated!

Ateles geoffroyi (commonly referred to as **spider monkey**, **mono arana**, and **mono colorado**)



These monkeys range from Mexico to Colombia, from sea level to at least 2,800 meters (the entrance to Cloudbridge is about 1,560 meters). They occur mostly in large expanses of primary (old growth) forest. By day, these monkeys forage in the upper levels of the canopy. They spend most of their time eating fruits, as well as the young leaves of trees such as figs and Cecropias, flowers, bark, insects, and honey. Their long arms and strong fingers allow them to *brachiate*, to swing hand to hand among branches. They have a strong prehensile (branch wrapping) tail which is sometimes used to move through trees. They live in large groups of 20 to 40 individuals and typically break off into much smaller groups of two to six individuals during the day. Births may occur at any time of year and the young ride on the mother for approximately the first three months. It is difficult to tell the sex of an individual spider monkey; males and females look alike. They make many different sounds including raspy squeaks, screams, and horse-like whinnies. They are important seed dispersers; after consuming fruits, the seeds pass through their digestive tracts and

then germinate in the environment. Populations are vulnerable to deforestation and we are hoping that their numbers increase as the Cloudforest reforestation project continues. (Adapted from *The Natural History of Costa Rican Mammals*, by Mark Wainwright © 2002)

Cebus capucinus (commonly referred to as **white faced monkey**, **capuchin**, and **mono carablanca**)



These monkeys range from Belize to Colombia and Ecuador, from sea level to approximately 3,000 meters. These monkeys travel through all levels of the forest canopy in groups of up to 30 individuals. They are omnivorous, meaning they eat animal and plant matter, with fruit and insects comprising most of their diet. They also eat other plant parts, such as new leaves and flowers, especially when fruit is scarce. Capuchins often tear apart bromeliads (a group of plants that commonly grow on trees) in search of insects and water and they often chew the base of leaves. Scattered and chewed bromeliad leaves on the forest floor may be a sign that these monkeys are about. Occasionally they eat small birds, eggs, young coatis, lizards, and frogs. Females give birth most often in the dry season (at Cloudbridge Dec. through April). Mothers carry young until they are able to move about on their own around five or six months of age.

Sounds they make include hoarse barks when alarmed, and squeals when playing or feeding. Like spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, described above), white faced monkeys are important seed dispersers and studies have shown that some seeds germinate more readily if they have passed through the digestive tract. (Adapted from *The Natural History of Costa Rican Mammals*, by Mark Wainwright © 2002)