

IN MEMORY OF EDUARDO MARCELINO VENTURA VEADO, 1960–2006



The mureiquis at the RPPN–Feliciano Miguel Abdala (previously, the Estação Biológica de Caratinga, or EBC), lost one of their greatest champions when Eduardo and his wife, Simone, were killed by a hit-and-run driver while they were taking an evening walk on the outskirts of Ipanema, Minas Gerais on 5 October 2006.

Eduardo's long history with the EBC began when he was a student of Célio Valle, Professor of Vertebrate Zoology at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). Célio was sponsoring Karen's doctoral research at Caratinga, and knew that she needed a field assistant. He encouraged Eduardo, who showed up at the EBC in August 1983,

and ended up working with Karen through July 1984. He then returned to Belo Horizonte to complete his university studies, and soon afterward, he married Simone.

Eduardo was hired by the Fundação Biodiversitas to be the Director of the EBC in 1986, and he and Simone moved to Santo Antônio de Manhuaçu, a small town nearby, to facilitate his work. He hosted many visitors, developed conservation education programs, and dedicated his life's work to helping maintain the field station of the EBC in the Fazenda Montes Claros of Sr. Feliciano Miguel Abdala and his family, with its forest and its mureiquis. Eduardo's son, Lucas, was born in 1989, and a few years later, Eduardo and his family moved to Caratinga, where his daughter, Bruna, was born. Eduardo led campaigns in Caratinga to involve the city in preserving the mureiquis. Despite his successful activities there, Eduardo felt that Caratinga was too far from the forest, so he and his family moved to Ipanema, where he visited with Sr. Feliciano, checked on the researchers, and administered the field station and its personnel almost daily.

Over the years, Eduardo built an impressive team of dedicated assistants to help him, many of whom are still working with us today. In 1993, Eduardo received a prestigious recognition award from the American Society of Primatologists, and an ongoing subscription to the *American Journal of Primatology*, which the researchers at the EBC still value greatly. In 1994, after his position with the Fundação Biodiversitas ended, Eduardo obtained support from the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation to initiate conservation efforts among the farmers in the region surrounding the EBC. By then, our long-term research had shown that the mureiqui population was growing, and would eventually need more forest. Eduardo developed a strong relationship with Sr. Feliciano, who agreed to let some of the coffee fields and pastures surrounding the forest regenerate. Eduardo also built a nursery, where the seeds from fruits in the diet of the mureiquis could be cultivated to supply seedlings for reforestation. Throughout all of this, he continued to manage the EBC, providing the infrastructure necessary for maintaining the long-term mureiqui research there, and the logistical support for visitors and the researchers themselves.

By 1998, Eduardo's conservation efforts had expanded and were generating important results. He created the Associação Pró-Estação Biológica de Caratinga, an environmental organization with the aim of establishing strategies for the conservation of the mureiqui and the forests in the entire region. He served as the Executive Director of this organization. The Associação Pró-Estação Biológica de Caratinga became a partner of Conservation International–Brazil, which funded Eduardo's ongoing activities at the EBC.

With his extensive experience and accumulated knowledge of mureiqui management, Eduardo was invited to serve as a member of the Committee for Management and Conservation of Mureiqui when it was established in 2002. The Committee's purpose is to develop strategies for the conservation of this species and to provide technical advice to IBAMA about decisions concerning mureiquis. Eduardo's participation was highly valued.

Following the death of Sr. Feliciano in 2000, Eduardo was diligent in accompanying the discussions among the Abdala family about the future of their forest. It was through Eduardo that many of us learned that the Abdala family had made the historic decision to convert their family's forest to a Private Reserve (RPPN) in 2001.

By April 2005, the Preserve Mureiqui, which administers the RPPN–Feliciano Miguel Abdala, was well-established, and Eduardo's long-term service as Director of the EBC came to an end. During his tenure as Director, he oversaw the electricity that was brought to the EBC, the expansion of the research house, the construction of the Visitors Center "Célio Valle", and the inauguration of the Field Laboratory "Dra. Karen B. Strier", in celebration of 20 years of mureiqui research at EBC. Eduardo encouraged and coordinated the visits of hundreds of bus loads of students from schools in the region, as well as numerous groups of Brazilian and foreign eco-tourists, and visiting researchers, photographers, and film crews from around the world.

Eduardo was employed by the Mayor of Ipanema until his death, and was full of new ideas to expand conservation efforts in the region. Among the most important of these was his plan to fulfill his long-time dream of establishing a forest corridor to link the RPPN forest with the forest in Ipanema, and ultimately, with the Mata do Sossego Private Reserve, inhabited by another isolated population of murequis.

All of us who have worked with Eduardo know the depth of his commitment to the forest and its murequis. Eduardo was a colleague to everyone involved with murequi conservation, and a close friend to many of us. Most of all, he was a friend of the murequis.

We will always remember Eduardo, and his many contributions, with great appreciation.

Karen B. Strier and Luiz Paulo de Souza Pinto
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