

# Reserva Río Manduriacu: An Andean Mine of Threatened Herpetofauna

*Ross J. Maynard*

Ross Maynard has always enjoyed sharing his fascination of amphibians and reptiles with others. For instance, when he was young he would often prepare his wagon and travel cage in order to take his pet snake on tours around the neighborhood, certain that each of his neighbors would embrace an opportunity to see such an incredible animal. Although his approach no longer includes showing up at someone's door with a snake in a wagon, his general philosophy has changed very little.

While working towards a B.S. in Zoology at NC State University, Ross began volunteering with The Biodiversity Group in Tucson (TBG). After joining research trips to a number of sites across Ecuador in 2007 and 2008, he began working with TBG in a more official capacity, as he still does to this day. In 2012, and with the support of TBG, Ross went back to school to pursue a graduate degree, which resulted in the description of a new glass frog, rapid guides for the amphibians and reptiles at his Ecuadoran study site, and a study on how the presence of a small, unpaved road through Amazonian rainforest influences the distribution of amphibians and reptiles.

Currently, Ross is leading a project at the Reserva Manduriacu – a cloud forest site on the western slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes – which is where a population of a once-thought-extinct Andean toad has been “rediscovered.” His presentation will go over the backstory of the Tandayapa Andes Toad (*Rhaebo olallai*) and the importance of the reserve for this critically endangered species as well as other threatened herpetofauna. The presentation will also cover threats to the area, including a new and imminent threat that has the potential to wipe out not just the only known population of *Rhaebo olallai*, but also two new species of frogs that Ross and his team have discovered at this remarkable site.

21 Nov 2018, 7:15, Ward 3 Conference Room,  
1510 E Grant. Pre-meeting dinner at Rubios,  
2906 N Campbell, 5:30.

