Zoology 4413
TROPICAL ECOLOGY
FIELD COURSE
In Veracruz and Chiapas, Mexico

At Los Tuxtlas, we stayed in lowland forest surrounded by cow pastures.

Herps were everywhere Smilisca

Grabbing a puffing snake, Pseustes poecilonotus

UNAM scientists offered their expertise

and shared their research with us

Marking individual damselflies

Dr. Gonzalo Perez identifies a lizard

Dr. Gonzalez introduced us to P. desiderata
Damselfly males got up at 6 am to mate, and some stayed until 6 pm.

defending egg laying sites
(in 5 species of lianas, identified by Dr. Campos)

We searched for insects in tree holes

We experienced diversity, even in methods of traversing a stream.

You could hear the monkeys and sometimes even see them.

Heteragrion alienum

along streams, and in light gaps

World's largest damselfly, Megaloprepus coerulatus

Damsels weren't the only big things around 'Hoja Elegante'.

You could hear the monkeys and sometimes even see them.

We searched for insects in tree holes

We experienced diversity, even in methods of traversing a stream.
6-mile hikes were no sweat.

When this was the ultimate destination.

Insects were everywhere.

Mixed species swarm of dragonflies feeding above the Mayan temple to the sun, Palenque.

At Chajul, Monte Azul biosphere reserve, we experienced one of the last remaining sections of tropical rainforest left in Mexico.

The forest provided a sense of history.

Even when we weren’t in it.
Spider monkeys were as inspirational as a retrieved pot shard, last touched more than 1000 years ago.

Lunch stop at an unexcavated Mayan temple.

Fresh tortillas at Chajul.

but the food, terrific

Dr. Jose Warman, astrophysicist turned NGO chair, talks to class about conservation problems in the Lacandona region.

We saw the problems for conservation first hand

Solar panels power Chajul.

but also saw some solutions

Clinics provide free family planning
The course will change your view of the world

Next course? Galapagos & Amazonia 2013