

The Rich Diversity of Species on Barro Colorado Island

Vegetation

The forest on Barro Colorado Island has an abundant plant species population. According to the 2005 census, one hectare (100 meters by 100 meters) in the 50 hectare plot on BCI can have:

- 417 trees (diameter > 10cm) belonging to 89 different species
- 4,168 plants (diameter > 1 cm) belonging to 166 species
- 1,369 vascular plants – although new reports are being made

Fauna

On BCI the following have been reported:

- 5 species of monkeys
- 73 species of bats
- 334 species of birds
- 32 species of frogs and toads
- 2 species of salamanders
- 1 species of caecilian (amphibians that superficially resemble earthworms or snakes)
- 23 species of lizards
- 41 species of snakes
- 5 species of turtles
- 1 crocodile
- 1 caiman
- 1 Amphisbaenia (worm lizards)
- In total 465 known species of vertebrates live on the island.

The following are estimates:

- more than 400 species of ants
- 28 species of soldier ants
- more than 1,000 species of bedbugs
- 100 species of cockroaches
- between 500 and 600 species of butterflies
- between 1,500 and 2,000 species of moths