

Amazon study discovers 381 new species in two-year period

20 minutes ago



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Image caption

Zoque Zogue Rabo de Fogo monkeys were named "Fire tail" for their distinctive red tails

Researchers have discovered 381 new species during a two-year study in the Amazon region.

The report by the WWF conservation body and Brazil's Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development said that on average a new species was discovered every two days.

But all the newly discovered animals and plants were found in areas at risk from human activity, the authors warn.

More than 2,000 new species were found between 1999 and 2015.

The report, published in Sao Paulo on Wednesday, is the third in a series and covers the years 2014 and 2015.

What species did researchers discover?



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Image caption

Papiliolebias ashleyae is one of the 93 fish species discovered between 2014 and 2015

216 previously unknown plants

93 fish

32 amphibians

20 mammals

19 reptiles

one bird

The Amazon rainforest, the largest in the world, is famous for its diversity of species and habitats.

Ricardo Mello, co-ordinator of the WWF Brazil Amazon programme, said the fact that researchers were still finding hundreds of species was proof that there was much more work to be done in the region.



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The Araguaian river dolphin was the first new river dolphin species to be discovered since the end of World War One



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The Western Puffbird (*Nystalus obamai*) was the only new species of bird to be discovered during the two-year study



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Maratecoara gesmonei was found in a temporary pool on an island in the middle of the Xingu river in Brazil

But Mr Mello warned that human activity such as farming and logging were posing a risk to the flora and fauna of the Amazon. "All the species that were discovered, all 381, are in areas where humankind is destroying the Amazon. This is very important to us, because it links the fact that our economic activities are causing species to go extinct before we even know about them," he said. Joao Valsecchi do Amaral of the Mamiraua Institute called for more funding towards research across the vast Amazon region.