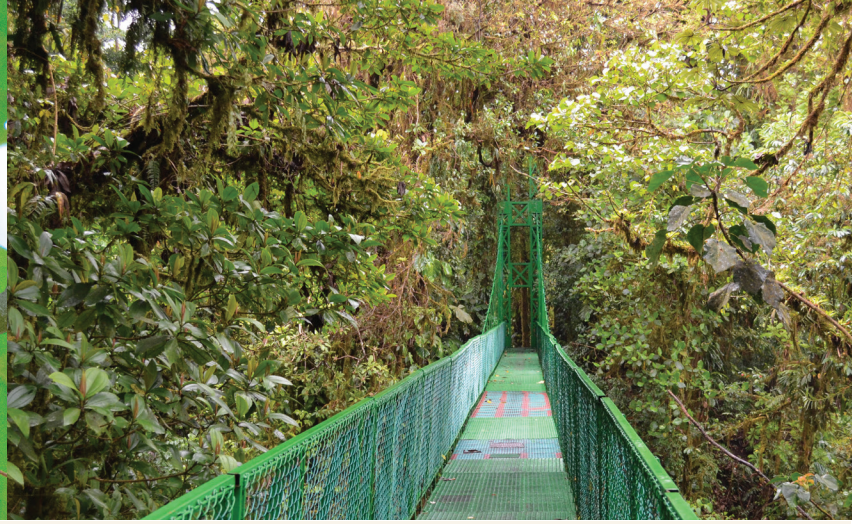

COSTA RICAN NATURAL HISTORY AND CULTURE: AN ECOREGIONS PERSPECTIVE

Costa Rica is a biodiversity and conservation hotspot of worldwide recognition. About 5% of all organisms of the Earth are present in this country which is not bigger than Texas or ca. 0.01 % of the total land surface. Over 30% of the country area is under protected status. During this seminar we will explore the bewildering biodiversity of Costa Rica by examining the particular physical characteristics of each ecoregion of the country, such as geology, climate, and the history that shape their biodiversity and the relationships among its components. We will analyse the development of different human cultures in this natural context through different epochs. We compare each of the nine ecoregions present in Costa Rica, and those shared with neighbouring Panama, Nicaragua and northern Central America. We will try to answer questions such as: What makes the particularity of every ecoregion, to be considered unique in a worldwide scale, and analyze their conservation status and degree of biological exploration. Should the tropical zone be regarded as an evolutionary cradle of new types of organisms which sends out migrants to colonize the extratropical world? Do the tropics serve as a sanctuary for evolutionary old age where organisms that were widespread in the geological past survive as relics? Conceived as a photographic journey through the different ecoregions of Costa Rica with insigths into some areas of Nicaragua and Panama, this Seminar is largely based on the instructor's own photographic material and carried out with interactive zoom online lectures and key readings to understand general topics of tropical diversity and evolution.

March 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13, 2026

7PM–9PM ET

$225

Participants need to have a Zoom account (https://zoom.us sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so partipants can review them or make up missed ones.

REGISTER

CALENDAR

GENERAL INFO

Gregorio Dauphin (adriaendauphin@gmail.com), is curator at the National Herbarium, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica. His bryological research has included bryophyte inventories and workshops in different countries including United States, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia. His taxonomic expertise has centered in the tropical family Lejeuneaceae, especially the genus Ceratolejeunea for which he published a treatment for Flora Neotropica. Fueled by his interest on the history of the botanical exploration of the tropics he has done extensive research on the pioneers of the botanical exploration of Costa Rica and Central America.