

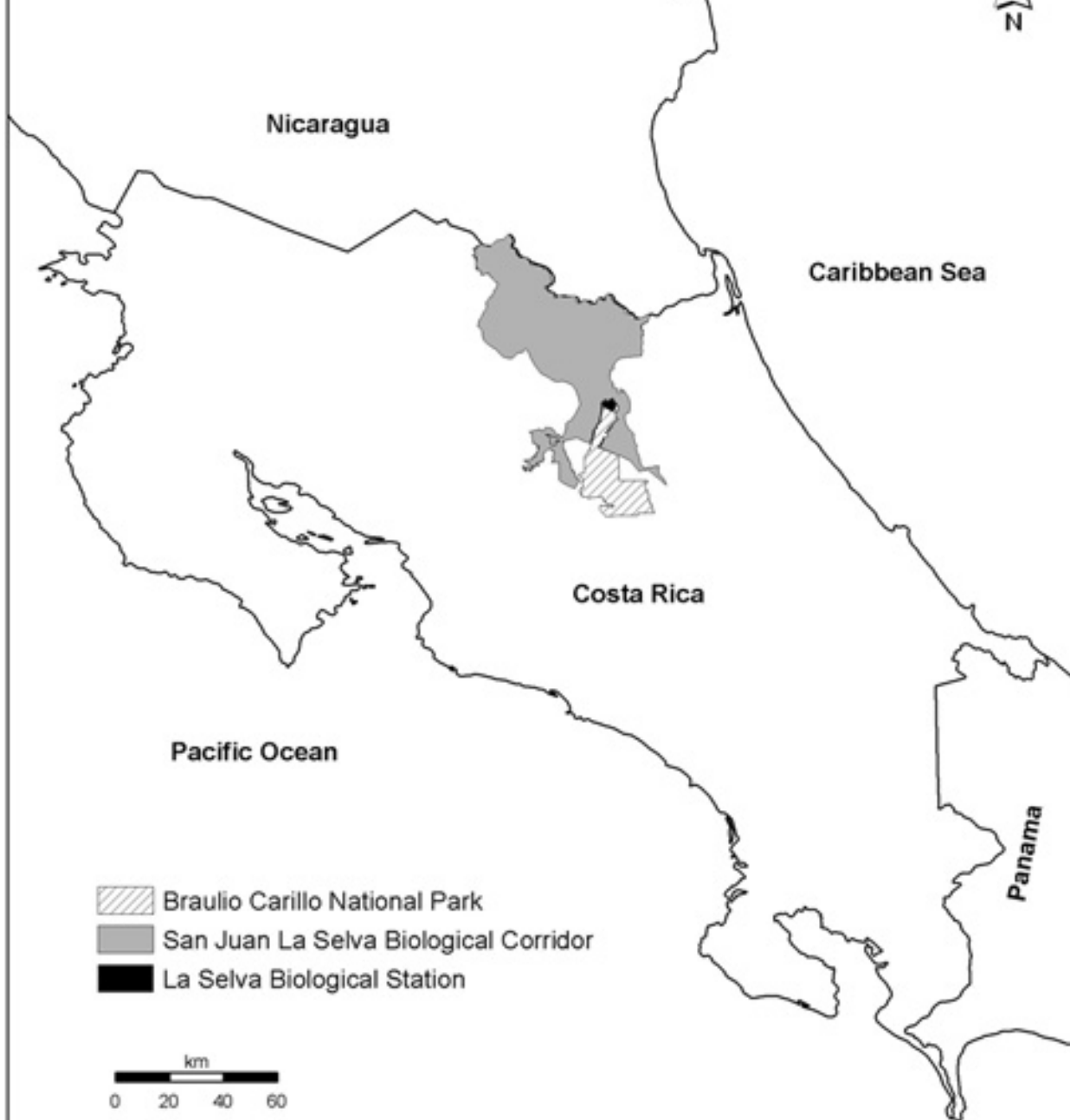


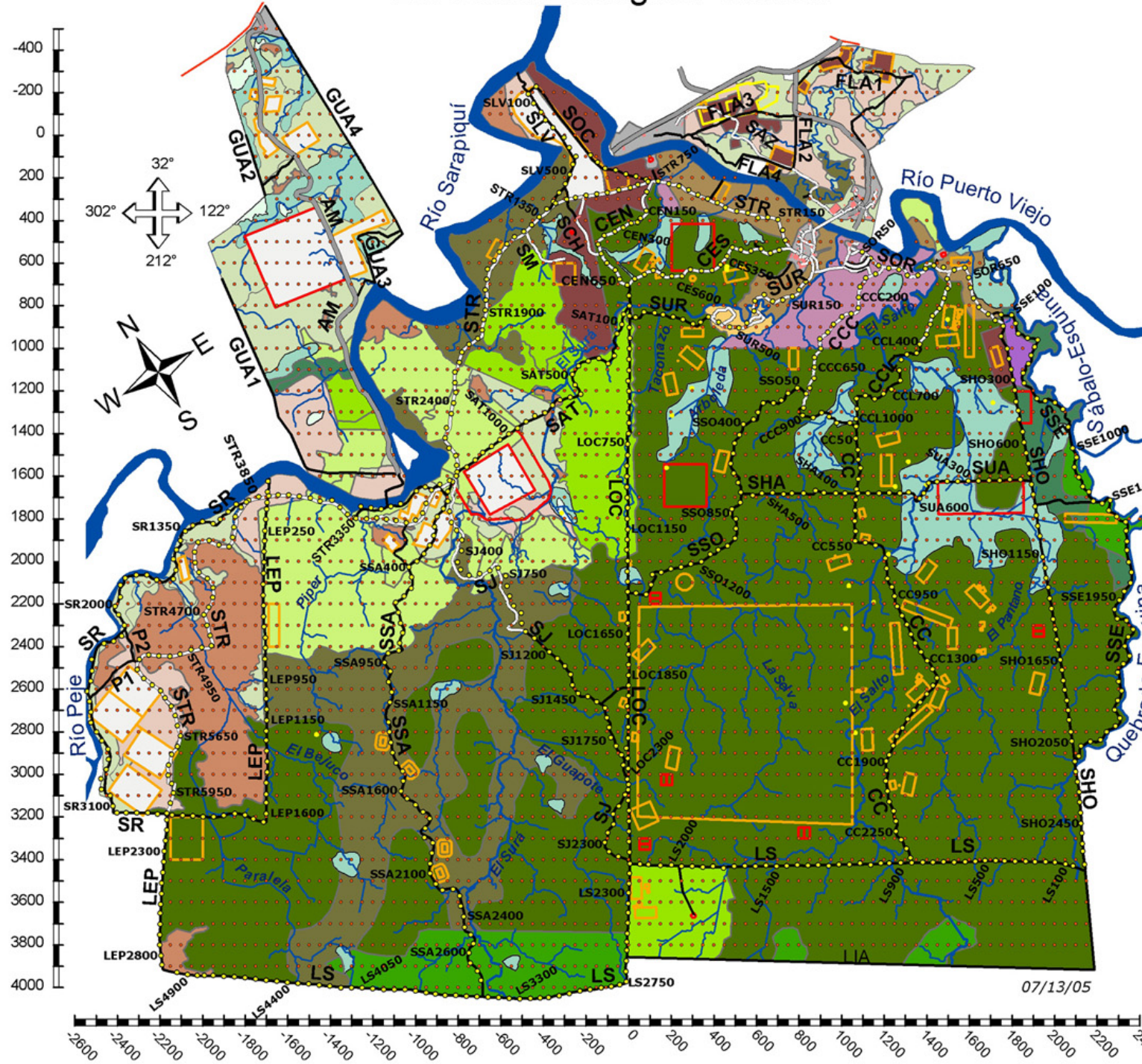
Neotropical Spiders:

The Good, The Bad, and the
Ugly

(+ some cute ones too!)

B L





Background: Aranae

- ~40,024 species of spiders on the planet
 - as of 2009
- ~110 families
- Generally, major evolutionary events are tied to web silk innovation
- All are predators on arthropods (though many will also consume other prey)
- All but 3 small families are venomous

Background: Aranae

Effective predators

- Up to 1000 prey items may be present in a single web at one time
- Reduce populations of
 - agricultural pests such as aphids, leafhoppers, thrips, and other herbivorous insects
 - Human pests including vectors of disease
 - Malaria, Dengue

Dangerous? Not really

- Only two species in Costa Rica are dangerous to humans

Lactrodectus spp.

Black Widow



Phoneutria boliviensis

Brazilian Wandering Spider

- Red hairs on chelicera



Ctendid spiders

- Many species
 - *Phoneutria* is not very common in Costa Rica
- Generally, other species not dangerous, but can be aggressive
 - Venom is poorly studied
- Most commonly sighted at night

Cupiennius coccineus and *getazii*







Mostly harmless (though everyone is scared of them)

- Mygalomorphs (Tarantulas)
 - At least 30 species in Costa Rica
- Nephila

Tarantula (many species & genera)

Aphonopelma seemani (Costa Rica Zebra Tarantula)



Cyclosternum fasciatum

Costa Rican Tigerrump



Brachypelma angustum

Costa Rican Red Tarantula



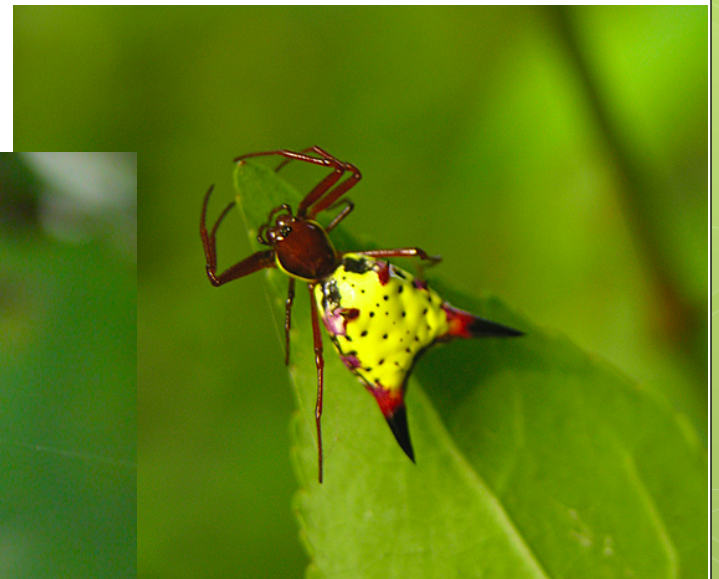
Nephila clavipes



- Only species in the Americas
- Distributed from North Carolina to Argentina
- Disperse by ballooning
- Dimorphic (males are much smaller)
- Extremely mellow temperament

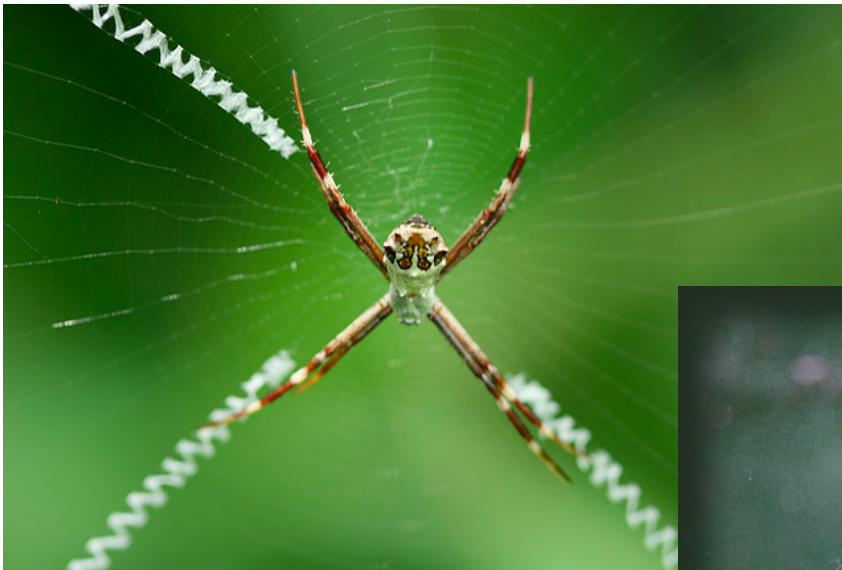
Most common orb weavers

Micrathena: The Spiny Orb Weaver



Argiope-Garden Spiders

- Stabilimenta



Gasteracantha spp.

Crablike Spiny Orb Weqaver





Uncommon, but awesome

- Vegetarian Jumping Spiders
- Ogre faced spiders

Bagheera kiplingi

- Vegetarian jumping spider!



Deinopis sp.
Ogre faced Spiders



Conclusions

- Spiders are less scary than they are awesome

