

BIO 266 –Blockkurs – **Fieldwork in South American Palaeontology:**
6 KP / Max. # student participants:8 / Block: 06.-28.Nov.2013 / Trip: 09.-25.Nov.2013

Terrestrial and marine fossil sites in northwestern Venezuela



Main organizer: Prof. M. Sánchez; Co-organisers: Dr. T. Scheyer, J. Carillo.
<http://www.msanchezlab.net/>

After lectures and demonstrations in Zürich during the first three days of the Blockkurs, the excursion to field sites in northwestern Venezuela aims at developing an understanding of the evolution of biotic communities in the Neotropics. Emphasis will be on the near-shore and terrestrial animal communities in the Caribbean region of the last 10 million years. Diverse geological formations are explored, but emphasis will lie on exploration in the Urumaco sequence, while collecting and identifying fossils, mostly vertebrates. Activities include visits to a small Zoo, fish market, and local museums, and pilot individual research projects.

Student activities will further involve talks, demonstrations and short practical projects such as dissection of fish, processing and identification of palaeontological samples, making of casts of vertebrate fossils, and study of geological sections.

This practical course is aimed at advanced Bachelor students with special interest in palaeontology and/or organismal biology and most likely aiming at conducting Master work in this area of Biology/Geology.

Prerequisites: BIO 121, other course(s) in one or all of these disciplines: Zoology / Evolution / Palaeontology.

Costs: CHF 2000 per person, to cover airmiles to and within Venezuela, all airport taxes, and a few other costs. The University will subsidize most of the transportation, accommodation, and logistical costs.

Registration: please provide Name, Matrikelnummer and Semester (the sooner the better), deadline 31.05.2013, to sekretariat@pim.uzh.ch, payment until 16.06.2013. An information meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 May. Own insurance arrangements will be required.

Requirements: Language: English; Participation in lectures and paper presentation before the trip, and a short report to be delivered within 1 week after end of the excursion.

For any questions, please feel free to contact Marcelo Sánchez at:
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