



# V<sup>TH</sup> AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Costa Rican International Herpetological  
Symposium and Field Exploration  
September 7 – 10, 2023

To be held at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve

Come and enjoy herpetology in nature!





## Summary


After five years of obligatory absence, the Costa Rican International Herpetological Symposium is back in its Fifth edition.

Costa Rica is home to 5% of the planet's biodiversity.

Though small in geographic area, Costa Rica has one of the highest densities of herpetofauna in the world with more than 440 species of reptiles and amphibians. The Symposium will feature presentations and workshops about conservation and herpetology by organizations and individuals. Come and learn about new findings and research from all over the Americas and beyond, or see how you can share your own work with conference participants and other interested people.

This is the 5 th herpetological symposium at Selva Verde Lodge since they began in 2013. This event brings together herpetologists from Costa Rica, Central and South America, the United States and Europe. Join us for an exchange of knowledge, learning, and enjoyment of Costa Rica herpetology at its best!

## Highlights

- Hear from renowned herpetologist Eric Smith, author of many influential articles, mostly about Central American herpetofauna and descriptor of some spectacular species. His work with Elapidae is among the most important in the world.
  - Come and learn about the Art in Herpetology through the ages, with renowned Mexican artist René Villanueva-Maldonado. He also will dictate a workshop about classic herp illustration.
  - Meet Brian Kubicki, one of the most prolific free-lance herpetologist in Costa Rica; heard about his long experience at the Costa Rican Amphibian Research Center and his last work about salamanders;
  - Listen to Gerardo Chaves (Cachí), one of the most renowned herpetologists in Costa Rica, former curator of the Universidad de Costa Rica Museum, speaking about the importance of Museums and Collections of natural history.
  - Join Rodolfo Vargas Leitón, owner of Refugio Animal /herpetológico) de Costa Rica, dealing with conservation and legal issues when working with amphibians and reptiles in Costa Rica.
  - Connect with Victor Acosta, researcher at Universidad de Costa Rica, studying the amphibian pathogens in Costa Rica;
  - Know about the work of Erick Arias, herpetologist at the University of Costa Rica, about some of the less unknown amphibians, the salamanders.
  - Join Cesar Barrio Amorós, taxonomist and global herpetological explorer, photographer, and adventurer who has put together the line-up for our Symposium and will serve as our emcee throughout the event.
  - Enjoy 4 days and 3 nights of conferences and field visits to observe reptiles and amphibians in their natural habitat.
  - Mahmood Sasa
  - Investigate the impressive natural history of the Sarapiquí River; search for crocodiles, turtles, basilisks, and iguanas.
  - Visit the nearby Lapa Verde Reserve for night hike!
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## Costs for the Symposium

### Price per Person:

<b>\$590.00</b>	Per person in double occupancy
<b>\$660.00</b>	Per person in single occupancy
<b>\$540.00</b>	Per person in triple occupancy
<b>\$397.00</b>	Per student & guide with valid ID (can be up to triple & quad occupancy)
<b>\$ 50.00</b>	Day pass for local people includes lunch

**Includes:** 3 nights / 4 days accommodations at Selva Verde Lodge, presentations and talks, Symposium t-shirt, all meals throughout the symposiums, field excursions, transportation within the symposium activities, entrance fees, and activities as described. All corresponding taxes.


**Excludes:** Transportation to and from San José to Sarapiquí and return. Alcoholic beverages, tips, etc.

**Price per Person:** Transfers between Selva Verde Lodge and the airport or San Jose, a two-hour drive, are \$60 per person each way or \$120 round-trip. Pricing can decrease with groups of 4 or more passengers. This pricing is valid only for those arriving on September 7th and departing on September 10th. Please be advised that passengers will be grouped together and it may be necessary to wait up to 3 hours from your flight arrival or departure for transportation

**Payment & Cancellations:** Reservations before to 6th June have a \$75 discount. Deposit and Payment: In order to confirm your reservations a 50% deposit is due. Final payment will be due by to August 6th 2023. Cancellations received prior to August 6th 2023, are refundable minus \$30 administration fee. Cancellations received between up are refundable less a penalty equal to 50% of the total cost of the symposium per person. If you choose not to participate in any part of the program, refunds are not available for any activities, meals, accommodations, or presentations. We are unable to grant refunds for any missed portions of your reservation because of missed or delayed flights. Additionally, no refund is guaranteed for unused reservations because of weather, personal health, or social disturbance.



*We will confirm your reservations  
upon receipt of your deposit.*







## Presentations & Posters:

**Talks:** the topic of these should focus on research results in scientific knowledge or conservation of amphibians and reptiles. English or Spanish. 30 minutes maximum (mention the duration). The abstract should be in Arial 12. Maximum 300 words.

**Posters:** the posters must have dimensions of 80 cm wide x 1.20 m high. English or Spanish. The funding is the responsibility of the author and may have sponsors.

Deadline: for us to receive your abstract for your talk or poster is August 15.

Please email [jcatillotus@gmail.com](mailto:jcatillotus@gmail.com)

**To enroll & for more information:** Participants can enroll directly with the Lodge by contacting Keyla Campos, Reservations , Selva Verde Lodge, [reservaciones@selvaverde.com](mailto:reservaciones@selvaverde.com) or +506-2761-180.

For questions about posters & papers: Jose Ivan Castillo Gomez, Naturalist guide,  
email [jcastillotus@gmail.com](mailto:jcastillotus@gmail.com) or Whatsapp 86222319.





## Schedule


### Day 1 / Thursday, Sept 7

- 2:00-4:00 pm Check in at Selva Verde Lodge.
- 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm Welcome to V Costa Rica's International Hepetological Symposium.
- 5:00 pm a 5:30 pm Introducción a Lodge Selva Verde y su herpetofauna/ Introduction to Selva Verde Lodge and its Herpetofauna, by Iván Castillo.
- 6:30 to 8:00 pm Dinner.
- 8:15 pm to 10:15 pm Night walk in Selva Verde Rainforest Reserve.

### Day 2 / Friday, Sept 8th

- 7:00 am to 8:50 am Breakfast.
- 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm Opening Conference: Eric Smith; Central American Herpetofauna: exploring and discoveries.
- 11:00 to 12:00 Herpetofauna conference: Cesar Barrio-Amorós, Current Status of the Variable harlequin toad *Atelopus varius* in Costa Rica.
- 12:00 to 12:30 Herpetofauna conference: Victor Acosta.
- 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch.
- 2:10 to 3:10 pm conference Herpetofauna: Rodolfo Vargas.
- 3:15 to 4:15 pm Herpetofauna conference: Johnatan Vega.
- 4:15-4:30 short break.
- 4:30 to 5:00: Herpetofauna conference: Brian Kubicki, salamanders of the genus *Nototriton* in Costa Rica.
- 5:00 to 5:45 pm Herpetofauna conference: Gerardo Chaves.
- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Dinner.

### Day 3 / Saturday, Sept 9h

- 7:00 am to 9:00 am Breakfast.
  - 9:30 am to 12:00 am Sarapiquí River Boat Safari, "Herpetology and Natural History Field Trip". Cocodrille adventure.
  - 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch.
  - 2:10 to 3:10 pm Afternoon Herpetofauna conference: René Villanueva: Art in Herpetology.
  - 3:15 to 3:45: Herpetofauna conference.
  - 3:45-4:00: Short break.
  - 4:00-4:20: Herpetofauna conference.
  - 4:20-4:50
  - 4:55 to 5:55 Brian Kubicki, Glassfrogs of Costa Rica.
  - 6:00 to 7:00 Dinner.
  - 7:30 am to 10:30 pm Field Trip: Visit to Lapa Verde Reserve.
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## Schedule

### Day 4 / Sunday, Sept 10th

- 7:00 am to 8:30 am Breakfast.
- 9:00 am to 10:00 Conference Herping: Cesar Barrio-Amorós. Debe la serpiente venenosa más grande de Centro America ser protegida? Caso de la Plato negro.
- 10:00 to 10:35
- 10:40 to 11:10: Herpetofauna conference.
- 11:15 to 11:45: Herpetofauna conference.
- 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch.
- 2:10 pm to 3:00 pm. Certification.
- 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm Close up Conference.
- 4:00pm: Check out.

## Collaborative institution and Sponsors

