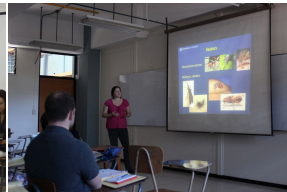




Introduction:

The School of Pharmacy elective *Medicinal Plants and Tropical Diseases* learning outcomes are:

1. Demonstrate an enhanced awareness of medicinal plant use, with an emphasis on Central American medicinal plants.
2. Recognize clinical manifestations of tropical infections and differentiate between disorders when given characteristic signs and symptoms.
3. Develop and demonstrate a respectful attitude towards other cultures and appreciate the associated traditions and beliefs.



Poas Volcano



Capuchin monkeys at Manuel Antonio National Park



Bixa orellana (Lipstick plant, achiote)



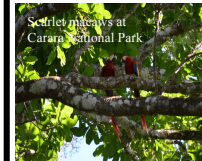
Canopy tour in the region



Medicinal plants presentation at the School of Pharmacy (UCR)

Some of the learning activities in the didactic part of the course:

- Introductory lectures
- Students' presentations and research papers on selected medicinal plants or tropical diseases
- Case study discussions
- Guest speakers: Dr. Wendy Applequist from the Missouri Botanical Garden, Mrs. Margaret Eisenberger from Friends of the Rainforest.
- Cultural panels



Scarlet macaws at Carara National Park



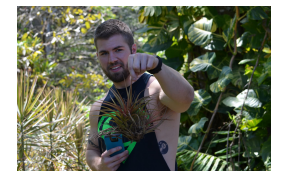
Central Market, San Jose



Students enrolled in the course:
Spring 2014: 9 students
Spring 2015: 15 students
Spring 2017: 12 students



Guided tour at Carara National Park



Some of the learning activities in Costa Rica:

- Guided medicinal plant and wildlife tour in the Carara National Park
- Pura Vida Botanical Gardens and canopy tour
- Manuel Antonio National Park
- University of Costa Rica presentations (by medicinal plants, natural products, and tropical diseases faculty)
- Mercado Central/Downtown San Jose
- Poas Volcano National Park
- Optional Activities: Museums (Gold, Jade, National, History)



Gold Museum



Written comments from current and former students:
About environmental protection: "It is one thing to hear about the damage to a place you've never experienced but it is a real eye-opener to see the beauty that is destroyed."

About educational practices in Costa Rica: "I'm impressed that they can provide just as good education to everyone as compared to the US with less resources."

About tropical diseases: "It definitely made me more aware of the situation especially the neglected infectious diseases. I believe that we are lacking awareness and the education of these tropical diseases and could quickly spread throughout the world as more travelers frequent the country."

About study abroad: "This trip has made me so grateful for study abroad opportunities. The experience is like none other and I fully support them and the valuable education they provide."