Recent confirmed records of the *Oncilla* (*Leopardus tigrinus*) in the department of Antioquia, Colombia

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The oncilla or little spotted cat (*Leopardus tigrinus*) is the smallest and one of the more cryptic and little known wild felids species found in the Neotropics. *Leopardus tigrinus* has a discontinuous distribution from Costa Rica and Panamá, through Colombia and Ecuador in high elevation areas, with some records in the Cordillera of Mérida in Venezuela (evidence from three specimens from the NMNH) down to eastern Brazil, Bolivia and northern Argentina (Eisenberg & Redford 199, Oliveira 2004, González-Maya & Schipper 2008). In Colombia the species is apparently restricted to the Andean region, with records in the three mountain ranges, from Galeras volcano in Nariño department in the south, Los Nevados National Park and Bremen Forest Reserve in Quindío department in the central mountain range, La Macarena National Park in the east and Cocuy National Park in Boyacá department in the east of the country (Payán & Gonzalez-Maya 2011). The species may be present in a wide range of habitats, but shows a high preference for cloud forests (montane and pre-montane) and paramos and generally located in highland habitats mainly above 1500 masl. Although its habitat is restricted to these environments, the species can apparently tolerate some degree of human intervention. Despite its presumed large distribution, there are no confirmed records in the northern portion of its distribution in Colombia.

Here we document recent confirmed records (from the last 10 years) from Antioquia department in central Colombia. These records were obtained during different field projects

and primarily derived from direct sightings (4%), videos by automatic cameras (37%), road killed individuals (42%), track records (4%) and interviews (13%) across multiple municipalities of the department (Table 1, Figure 1). Despite the interview records are not scientifically confirmed, we considered that these are important for future field efforts within the expected distribution proposed for the species. Of the total records only one record was obtained in paramo, five in cypress and pine plantations, and the rest were collected on cloud forests.

Figure 1. Distribution of recent records (>10 years) of oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*) in Antioquia and its potential distribution in Colombia (distribution obtained from Payán & González-Maya 2011).

In Antioquia little is known about the local geographic distribution and natural history of this species, being one of the most unknown species in the department and in Colombia. So far, only anecdotal reports were known without specific localities at regional level (Cuartas-Calle & Muñoz-Arango 2003), along with a specific record from an interview included in an unpublished faunal inventory (Sánchez-Giraldo & Díaz-N 2006). Most recent records came from seven oncilla road-kill records (Delgado-V 2007, Delgado-V unpub., This work), and with multiple records from unpublished studies on felids and others carnivores in the department (Arias-Alzate et al. 2010, Arias-Alzate et al. 2012, Sánchez-Londoño & Botero-Cañola 2014, This work) (Table 1).

We expect these findings will help to summarize and understand the presence and regional distribution of the species, which will be useful for generating more adequate and appropriate management and conservation actions. It is essential and imperative to confirm its existence in other areas not only in Antioquia, but also in other localities (e.g.

Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Serranía de San Lucas, Paramillo Natural National Park, Serranía del Perijá) especially in poorly studied areas along its potential distribution in Colombia.

Table 1. Current (>10 years) records of the oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*) in Antioquia, Colombia. * sighting not confirmed. 1- Delgado-V unpub., 2- Sánchez Giraldo & Díaz-N, 2006, 3- Delgado-V 2007, 4- Arias-Alzate et al. 2010, 5- This work, 6- Arias-Alzate et al. 2012, 7- Sánchez-Londoño y Botero Cañola 2014

Year	Municipality	Locality	Lat	Long	Type	Source
2003	Amalfi	Vereda Guayabito	68.592000	-75.104200	Sighting	1
2005	Yarumal	Vereda Corcovado	7.072800	-75.421400	Interview	2
	Envigado	El Escobero Road	6.121389	-75.543611	Road kill	3
2006	Belmira	Paramo de Belmira	6.633300	-75.666700	Interview	4
2007	Envigado	El Escobero Road	6.124167	-75.547222	Road kill	1
2008	Medellín	Las Palmas Road	6.153843	-75.532229	Road kill	5
	Envigado	Las Palmas Road	6.156382	-75.533280	Road kill	4
2009	Carolina del Príncipe	Vereda Miraflores	6.788100	-75.311400	Track	4
	Yarumal	Vereda la Argentina	6.883600	-75.531700	Interview	4
2010	Envigado	El Escobero Road	6.123333	-75.545556	Road kill	1
2011	Carolina del Príncipe	Vereda Agua Bonita	6.769000	-75.275450	Video	5
	Carolina del Príncipe	N/I	6.740842	-75.288045	Road kill	5
	Envigado	El Escobero Road	6.125833	-75.548056	Road kill	1
2012	El Retiro	San Sebastian la Castellana	6.107500	-75.547500	Video	5
	Guatapé	Vereda La Sonadora	6.179490	-75.163510	Video	6
	Envigado	El Escobero Road	6.126667	-75.548056	Road kill	1
2013	Santa Rosa de Osos	Vereda Guanacas	6.718100	-75.396400	Video	5
	El Retiro	San Sebastián	6.125130	-75.548454	Road kill	5
	Envigado	Las Palmas	6.156111	-75.546667	Road kill	1
2014	El Retiro	Vereda Ranchería	6.075150	-75.484160	Video	7
	El Retiro	Vereda Normandia Baja	6.083430	-75.539360	Video	7
	El Retiro	Vereda El Carmen	6.033540	-75.544600	Video	7
2014	El Retiro	Vereda Pantanillo	5.999040	-75.459130	Video	7
	Envigado	Vereda Pantanillo	6.178224	-75.505571	Video	5

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