

A Typical Life of a Túngara Intern:

Work: (7:30 pm - 6:00 am, 5 nights/week)

19:30 Meeting with froggers. Discuss the previous night's tests, any issues that might have come up, and the current night's tests. Prepare the night's data sheets.

20:00 Collect frogs. Search for amplexed pairs (male and female) in and around Gamboa. They are usually near male choruses and tend to be at the edges of puddles, often hiding under rocks and leaves.

21:30 Bring collected frogs back to the lab. Prepare the testing chamber (e.g. calibrate speaker levels, clean floor) and computers for phonotaxis trials.

21:30-04:00 Phonotaxis Trials. Female mate choice tests are conducted using a phonotaxis assay, meaning that females are given alternative acoustic signals that mimic male calls and they demonstrate their preference by moving towards one of the broadcasting speakers. Females are removed from their males and tested individually. Each female is placed under a funnel in the center of the phonotaxis chamber and then calls are played from two or more speakers within the chamber. Because these frogs are nocturnal, we do all trials at night and the chamber is illuminated only using invisible infrared lighting. We watch the females' behavior remotely through an infrared-sensitive camera. Watch a typical phonotaxis trial here ([for PC](#)) or here ([for Mac](#)).

~04:00-05:00 Marking frogs and data entry. After you and your coworker have finished testing, females are measured and marked prior to release to prevent retesting upon recapture. Data is entered into Excel.

~05:00-05:30 Return frogs to field. Take all the pairs of frogs back to the same location where they were collected.

~ 06:00- ?? Get some sleep!

In addition to regular work shifts, there are weekly "Frog Talks" and weekly seminars in town at the main STRI station in Panama City. You are encouraged to attend as many talks as your schedule permits, as this is a great way to meet people and learn about other ongoing research in Panama.

Recreation:

Gamboa Life In Gamboa, there are many other research groups and people of all ages. People get together often to talk, hang out, play ultimate Frisbee, or go into town for dinner or dancing. There are also, of course, great bird-watching sights very close-by and a trip to Barro Colorado Island is only a short boat-ride away.

Outside Gamboa, San Blas, Boquete, and Bocas del Toro are must see places that make for great 2-3 day trips.