SURINAME 2004
Photos by Matt Kelly
1. We took a 5+ hour bus ride through some very rough road deep into the rainforest. We arrived at the Coppenname River (pictured here). This river cuts deep through the interior of Suriname.
2. Two dugouts are made ready for our group by our Maroon guides for our 3.5 hour trip up the Coppename River.
3. We passed uninhabited rainforest all along the river. This is all part of the 1.6 million hectare Central Suriname National Reserve. Many interesting birds were seen, along with a Giant River Otter. We were on the lookout for the estimated 450 species of birds and 125 species of mammals, which richly inhabit these forests.
4. Our quarters were alongside this working Maroon village on Foengoe Island, which is surrounded by the Coppename River. This area is situated in the Raleigh Vallen National Park.
5. First day on the trails. Anil, our main guide, and "Captain" our Maroon guide, discuss a Morocoy (Yellow-footed Tortoise) we encountered while he was enjoying some ripe wild hog plum which had recently fallen.
6. Our group, getting ready to make the 240 meter ascent up Voltzberg Mountain. [L to R]: Feroze Omardeen, Alison White, Roger Edghill, Stuart Millar, Graham White, Selwyn Gomes, Natasha Isave, Matt Kelly, Carrall Alexander.
7. Graham caught a lizard.
8. Feroze with a very long Oncidium Orchid.
9. We conquer Voltzberg Mountain. The heat is oppressive. We sit on 1.9 billion year-old rock, which is of the oldest known exposed rock surface on planet earth!
10. Unidentified
11. Interesting butterfly in the forest. I also had 18 morpho butterfly sightings throughout this day. The butterflies in Suriname were utterly fantastic.
12. Two Moro渚s (Yellow-footed Tortoise) mating, deep in the forest.
13. Natasha feeds the Squirrel Monkeys who visited our camp in the mornings looking for handouts.
14. Graham caught this small frog in the forest near Moederval ("Mother Falls").
15. An Electric Eel comes up for a breath of air in the Coppename, near Moederval.
16. An interesting ground lizard near our camp.
17. A toad calling in the night along the river.
18. An interesting frog along the river at night.
19. A Paca scurries past our camp.
20. We very quietly surprised a Wild Hog or "Quank" (Collared Peccary) along a trail.
21. This is the wild ground bromeliad, which is common here, and is the stock ancestor of our hybridized modern pineapple.
22. Amazonian Violaceous Trogon (male).
23. A Tarantula Wasp about to take away her paralyzed young Tarantula prey.
24. This Three-toed Sloth was confiscated by Wildlife Officials within the City Limits of Paramaribo. He is being taken back to the wild to be released.
Our base in Paramaribo, The Hotel Krasnapolsky on Domineestraat.
THE END