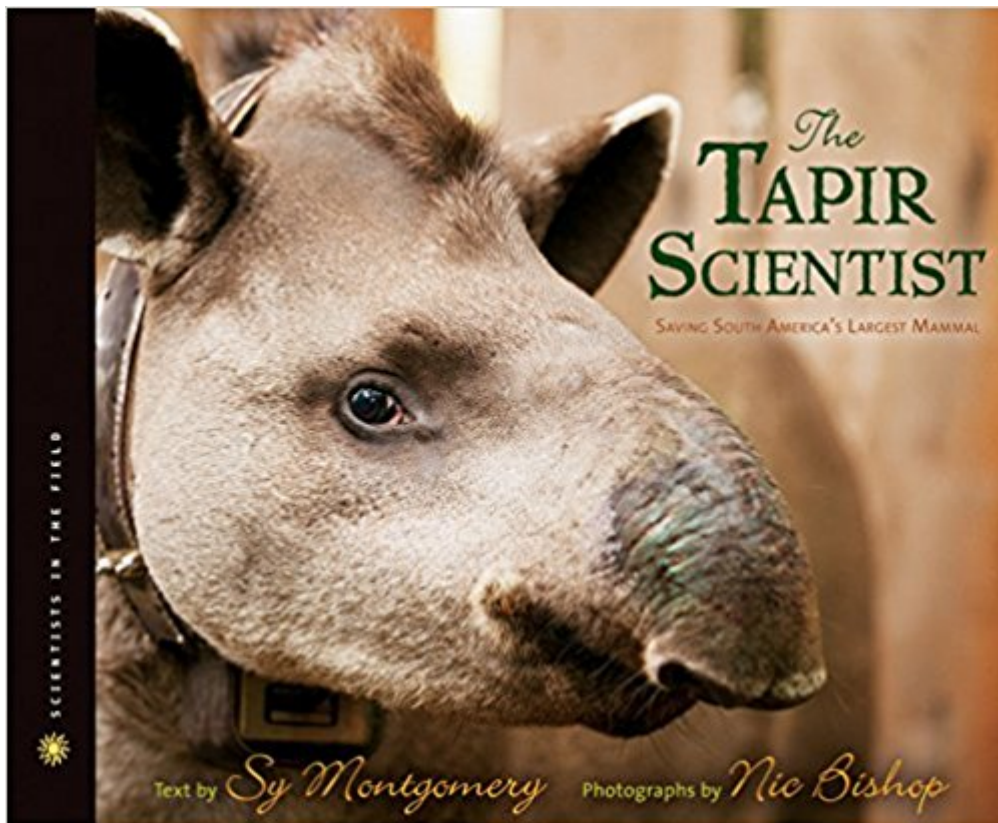




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# The Tapir Scientist: Saving South America's Largest Mammal (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

If you've never seen a lowland tapir, you're not alone. Most of the people who live near tapir habitat in Brazil's vast Pantanal ("the Everglades on steroids") haven't seen the elusive snorkel-snouted mammal, either. In this arresting nonfiction picture book, Sibert winners Sy Montgomery and Nic Bishop join a tapir-finding expedition led by the Brazilian field scientist Pati Medici. Aspiring scientists will love the immediate, often humorous "you are there" descriptions of fieldwork, and gadget lovers will revel in the high-tech science at play, from microchips to the camera traps that capture the "soap opera" of tapir life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970L (What's this?)

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (July 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547815484

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,264,981 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Central & South America #131 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Farming & Agriculture #285 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Forests & Trees

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-10 In this addition to the series, readers join Pati Medici and her team in their quest to study tapirs in the world's largest wetland, the Pantanal Wetlands of Brazil. Although its appearance may lead some to suppose that the tapir falls somewhere near elephants or hippopotami in the family tree, this flexible-snouted, hoof-toed tropical creature is most closely

related to rhinoceroses and horses. Medici has dubbed the tapir “the gardener of the forest” for its critical role in maintaining foliage by ingesting fruits and excreting the seeds elsewhere, but little else is known about this vanishing species. By observing and trapping the animals to outfit them with radio collars or microchips and collect samples including blood and ticks from infestations, Medici’s team hopes to better understand their lifestyles to enhance conservation efforts. Although in-text pronunciation guides are included for some Portuguese names and select scientific terminology is explained, no glossary is provided, and many of the exotic birds discussed are not shown. Following each chapter are several pages of related information with text and photographs placed on top of a marbled background with shadows that can make the text difficult to read in some places. A list of several websites and YouTube videos is included, and the index differentiates between text and photographic references. Bishop’s captivating photographs, paired with Montgomery’s narrative, not only call attention to a lesser-known endangered species, but also expose readers to the working conditions, obstacles, and emotions experienced by passionate scientists in the field.

Meaghan Darling, Plainsboro Public Library, NJ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

**\*Starred Review\*** Where in the world are Montgomery and Bishop? The latest project of the award-winning dynamic duo takes the reader to Brazil’s Pantanal, the world’s largest wetlands, where field scientist Patricia Medici leads a talented team in search of the unsung tapir. Montgomery’s typically polished narrative and Bishop’s illuminating photography showcases the research group’s camaraderie, as well as their dedication to protecting tapirs by tagging and studying them in their natural habitats. Both the images and text highlight how the tight-knit team operates as a think tank when obstacles arise, such as the failure of a tranquilizing dart to adequately penetrate, and solutions must be found. Montgomery’s inclusion of the story of Benjamin, a British schoolboy who led a donation campaign, and Medici’s response—naming a tapir in his honor—serves to personalize the project and model what other young enthusiasts can do to help. This contribution to the Scientists in the Field series seamlessly blends eloquent text and vivid images to spotlight the gentle tapir and those field scientists whose lives are committed to conserve animal species for the sake of our environment and our humanity. Grades 5-8. --Gail Bush

Although this book is non-fiction aimed at young people, it is set up by the authors as a mystery

thriller complete with fascinating cast of characters, suspense, and the excitement of the chase. The remote and nature-rich Pantanal wetland of South America is explored with beautiful photos and revealing descriptions. The book explains what tapirs are, where they live, a little of their history, and how they are related to other animals. We learn why they are endangered, and why it is so important and challenging to study them. Both traditional and cutting edge scientific methods are used to study the tapirs and these are also explained in the book. The woman who leads the study, Patricia Medici, is an inspiring role model for any young, aspiring natural scientist. Highly recommended for 5th grade and above. Adults interested in nature and endangered species will also enjoy it. It makes for a wonderful coffee table book/conversation piece as well.

Excellent book. Chronicles the story of Dr. Patricia Medici, the world's leading Tapir conservationist and the plight to save one of the most elusive and ecologically important animals from tropical Latin America and South East Asia.

Amazing book! Entertaining yet scientific.

I thought there would be better pictures of the tapir. Visually not so great, but ok. Everything about tapirs is good anyway

Great to see a book about my favorite animal, the tapir! A great way to raise awareness of the tapir.

Beautifully done a good coffee table book - and if you have friends who haven't a clue about this soon to be extinct animal, you can show off your caring nature ;-)

Read all about tapirs; what they eat, how they live, and where they live (etc). The most funny looking mammals (they're a little cute too!). Browse through the members of the tapir scientists group and how they got interested in tapirs and saving animals. What I liked about this book: The great photographs and stories. What I disliked about this book: The two men who killed animals when they were kids.

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