



VONGY

An Adventure Among Scientists

MÓNICA M. SOLÓRZANO KRAEMER · XAVIER DELCLÒS
ENRIQUE PEÑALVER · ANA RODRIGO

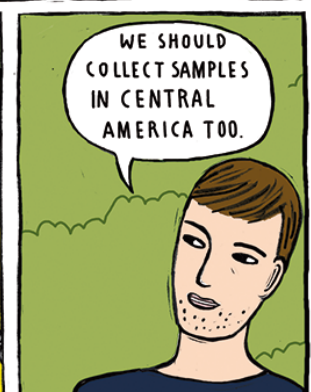
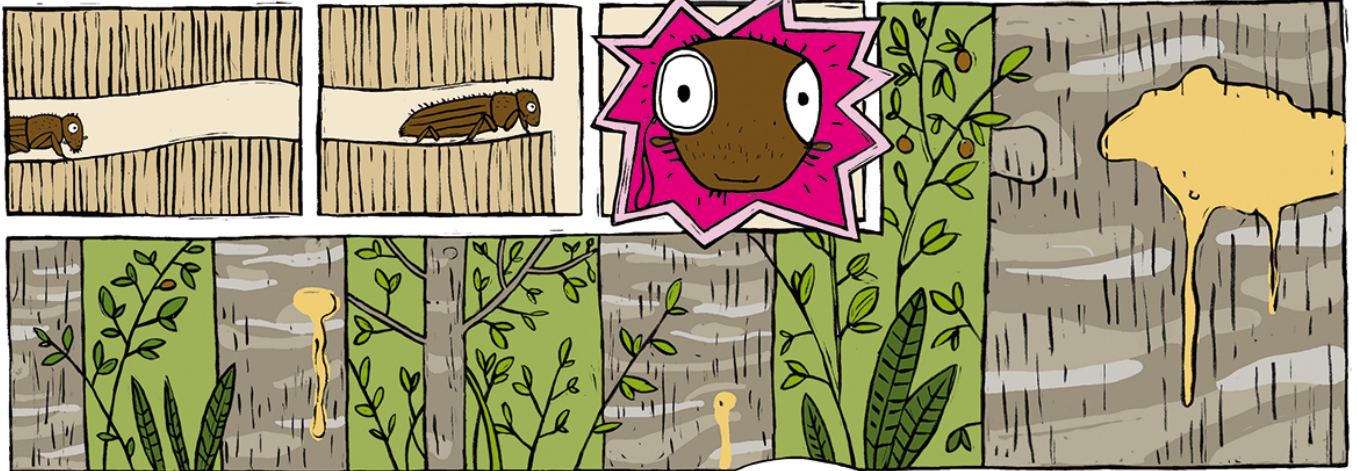


Vongy. An Adventure Among Scientists

The idea of presenting our scientific work as a comic book came about on our trip to Madagascar amid *Hymenaea verrucosa* – a species of trees that produces resin – while we collected insects, spiders, and resin. We thought that a comic book would be an appropriate way to describe to the children and adults of Madagascar the reasons why we made the trip to their country. At the same time, we sought to communicate the scientific value of insects, spiders, and resin and the significance of preserving biodiversity. As we wrote the script we realized the importance of making our work known beyond the limits of the Great Red Island. It is thus that this comic book illustrates the process of resin trapping and the dispersion of species through an adventure of discovery and a dangerous journey across the ocean.

The name of our protagonist is Voangory (Vongy), which is the word for “beetle” in Malagasy. The action unfolds in Madagascar and Central America in vast areas inhabited by trees that in ancient times originated the famous ambers from the Dominican Republic and Mexico and copal, the well-known fossil resin from Colombia and Madagascar.

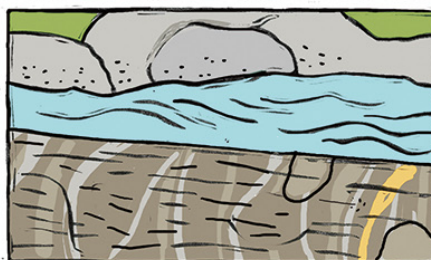
Dr. Mónica M. Solórzano Kraemer
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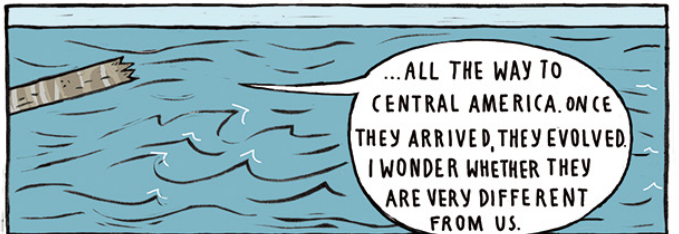
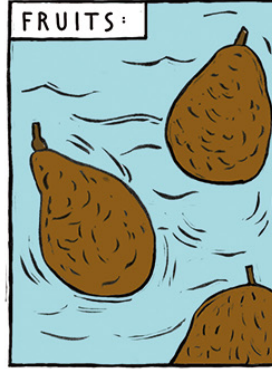
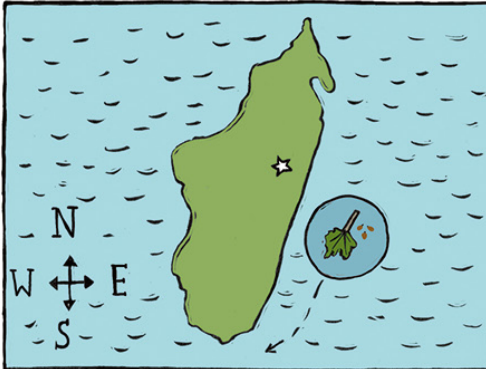


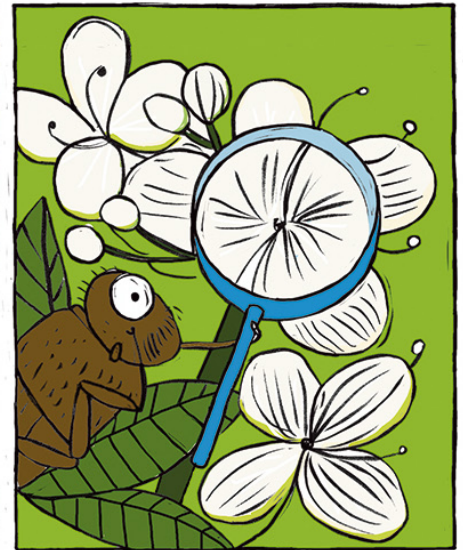
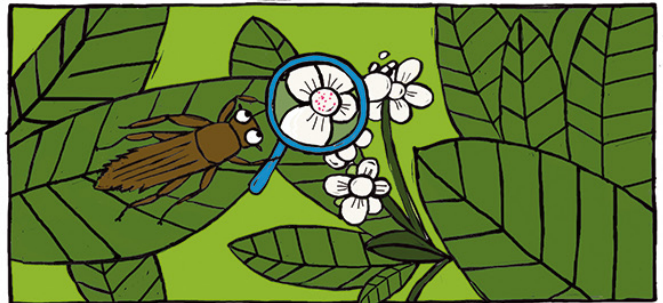
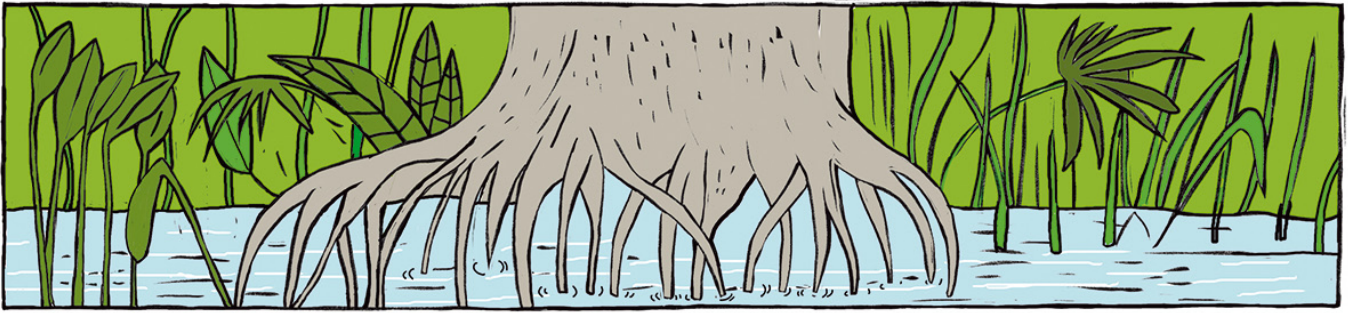
IT SEEMS THAT THIS TYPE OF BEETLE ALSO LIVES IN MADAGASCAR AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

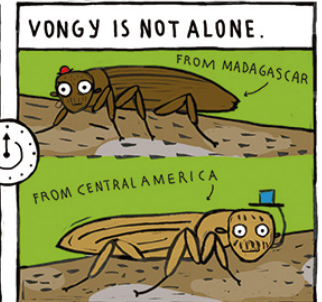
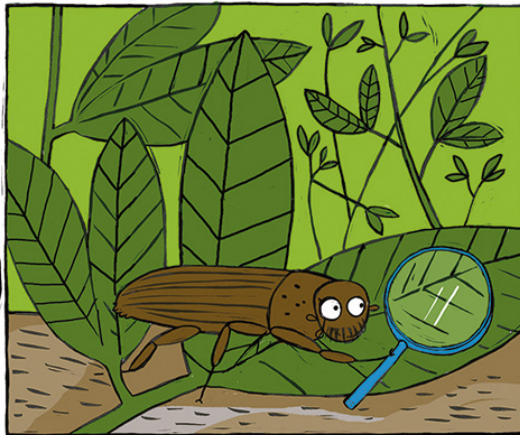
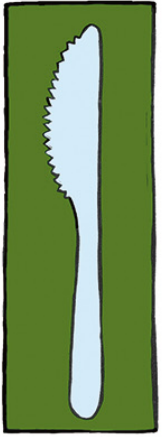
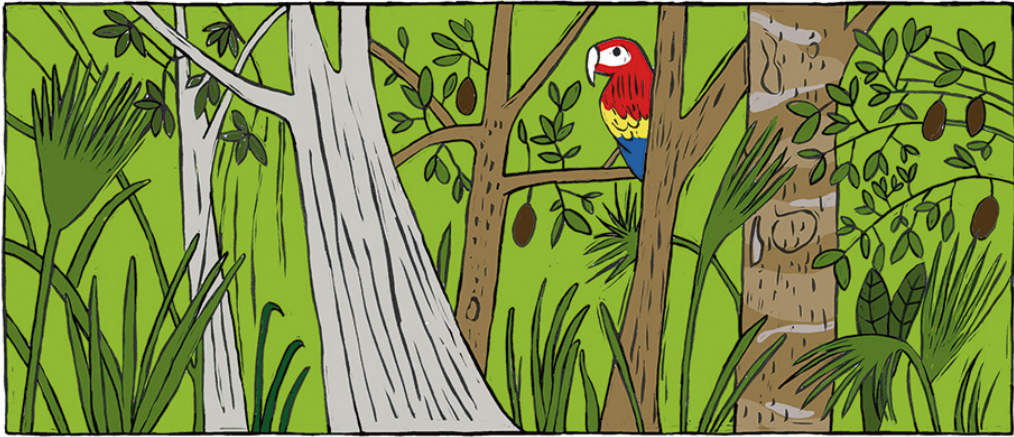


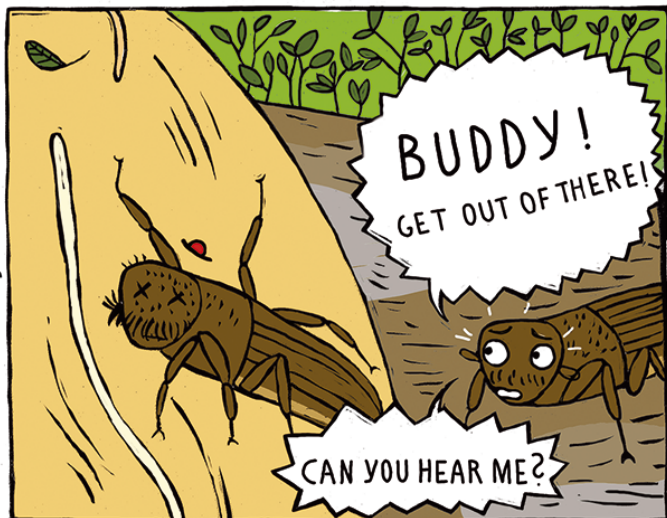
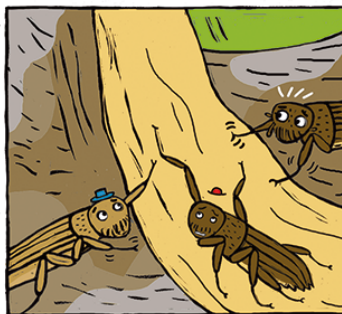
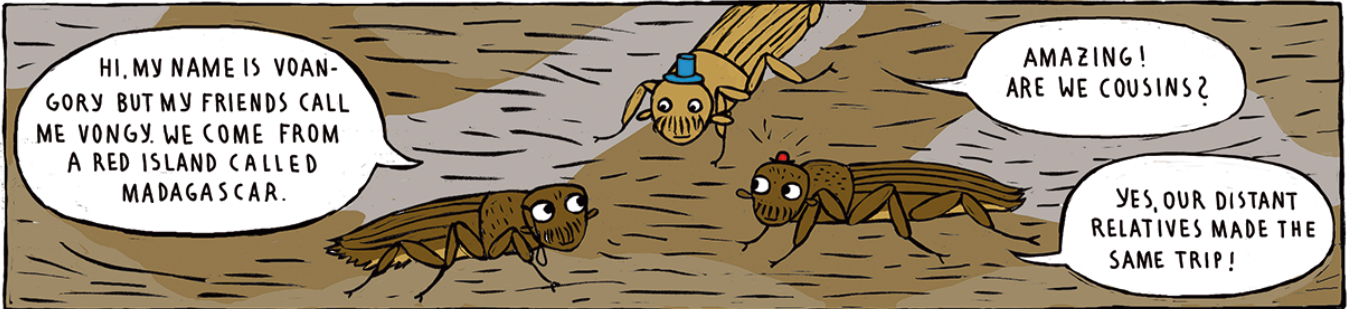
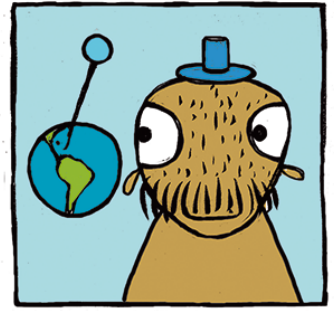
A STORM IS APPROACHING.

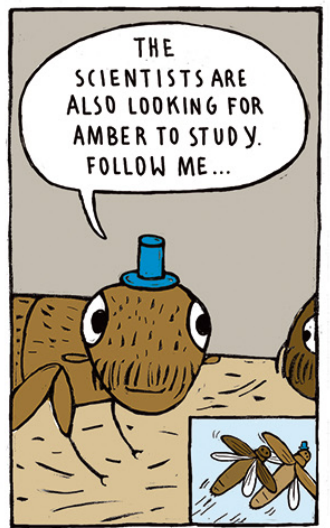
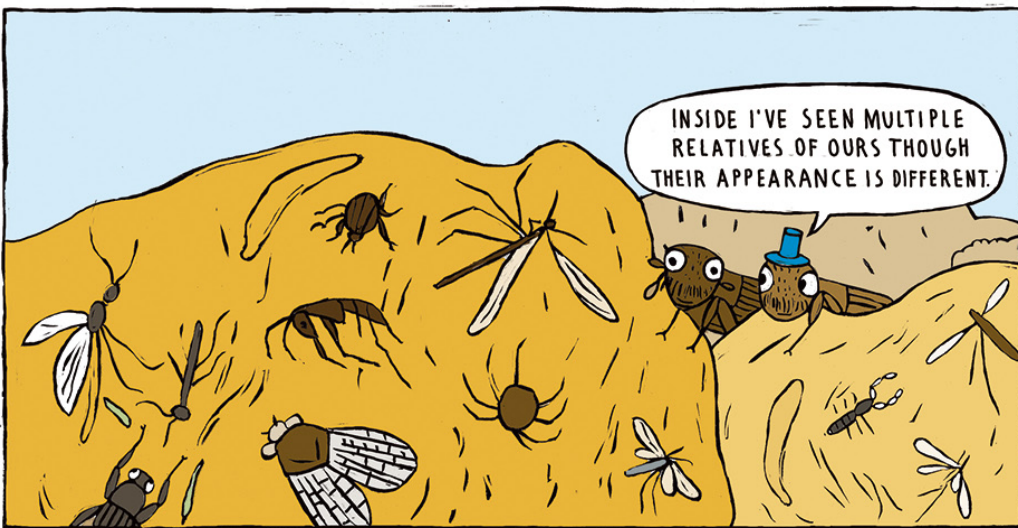
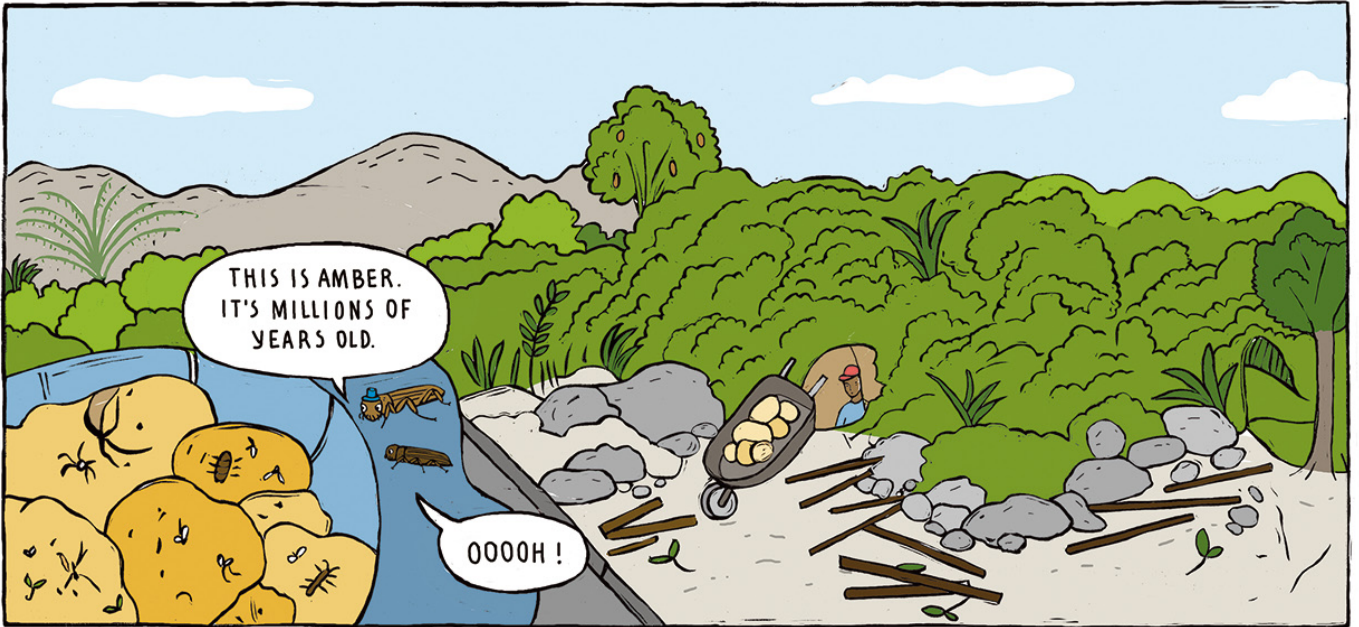
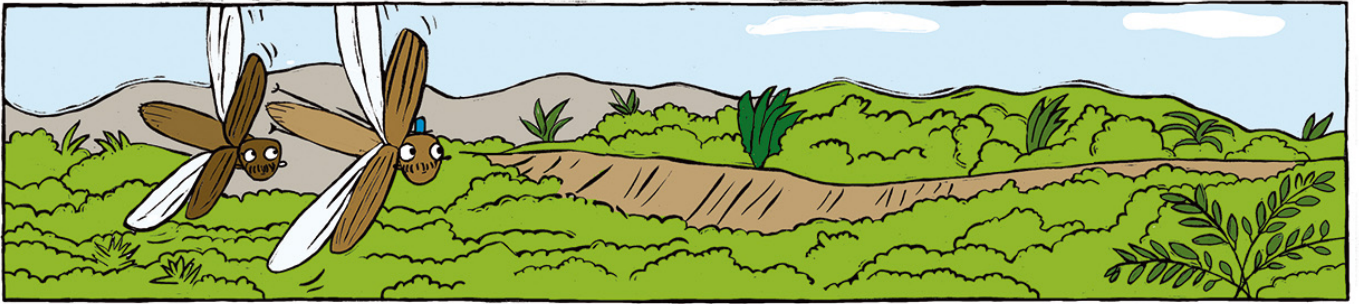


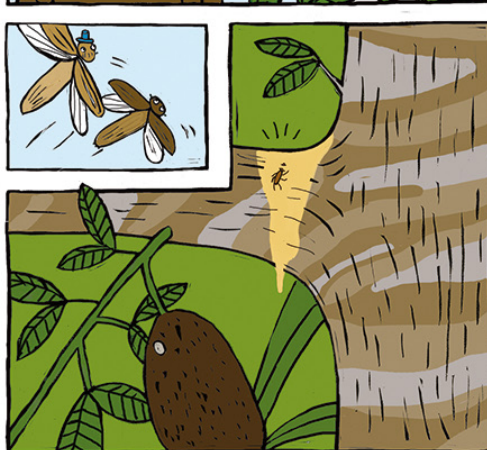
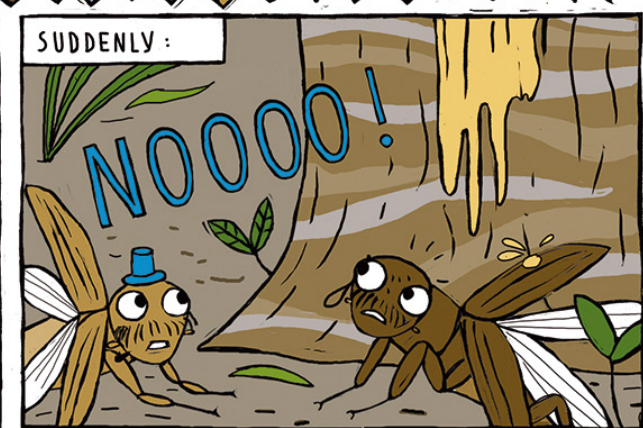
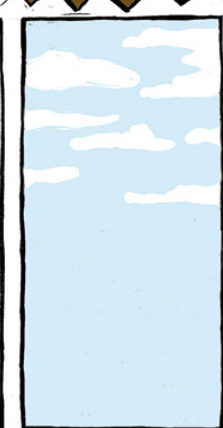
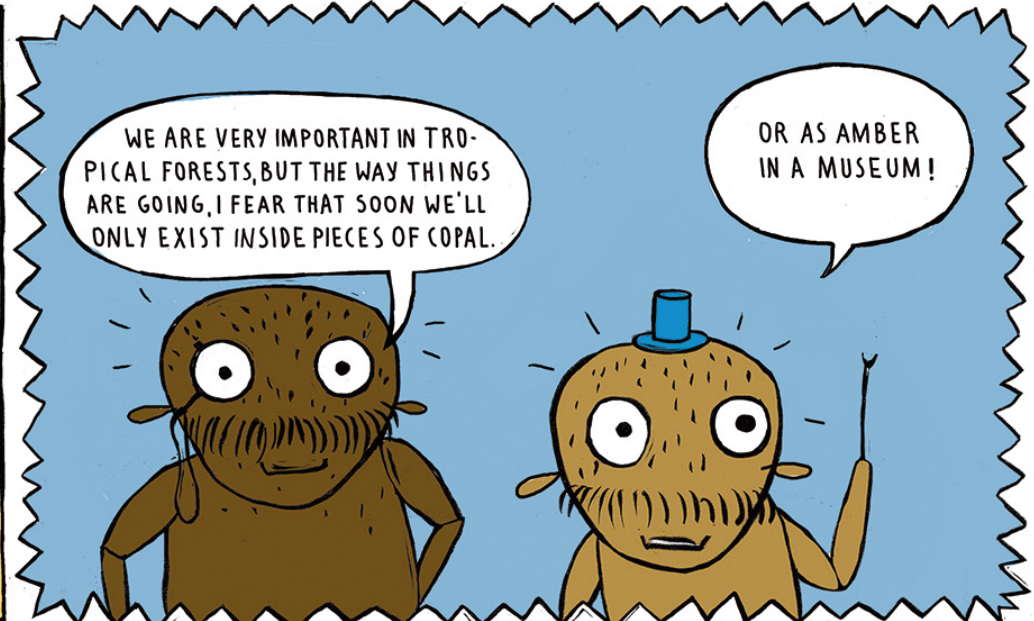








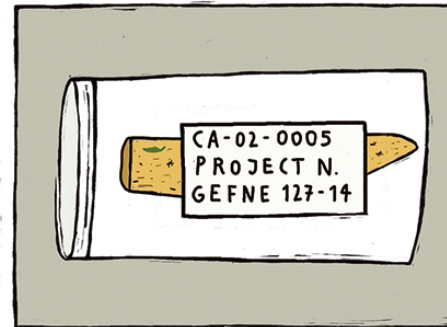
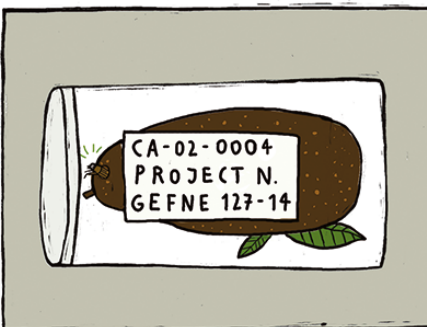




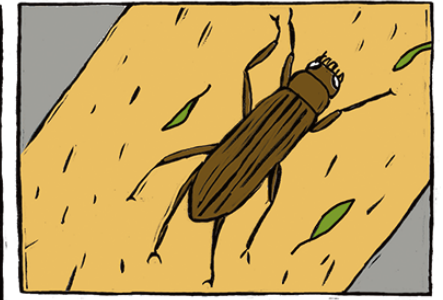
THE TEAM OF SCIENTISTS HAS TRAVELED FROM MADAGASCAR TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

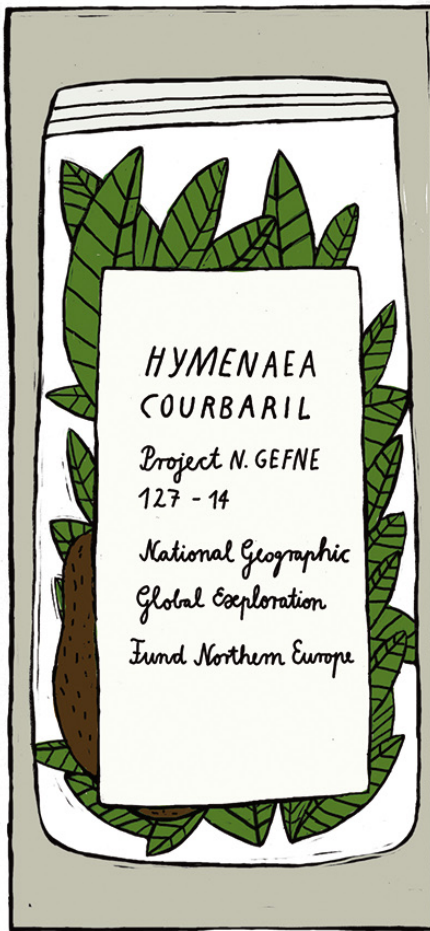


THEY MUST COLLECT MORE RESIN TO KNOW WHAT'S TRAPPED IN IT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR DISCOVERIES IN AMBER AND COPAL. COPAL CONTAINS SMALL PRESERVED ANIMALS, ALLOWING RESEARCHERS TO FIND OUT WHAT RAIN FORESTS WERE LIKE PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF HUMANS.



A PIECE OF RESIN IS CAREFULLY EXAMINED.





FORTUNATELY, VONGY'S FRIEND WILL BE USEFUL TO SCIENCE.

OUR RESEARCH WILL HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY.

AND WE WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND WHY THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF VERY DISTANT REGIONS CAN BE SIMILAR.



WE WILL TAKE THE SPECIMENS WE COLLECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ANTANANARIVO IN MADAGASCAR.

WE ARE GOING HOME !

The End

About the authors



Dr. Mónica M. Solórzano Kraemer: is a research scientist with a long career in the study of fossils in amber and curator of the amber collection at the Senckenberg Research Institute and Museum in Frankfurt (Germany).



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Imke Trostbach: is an illustrator and graphics designer. She studied Visual Communications and Art in Context in Berlin and Tel-Aviv. She has worked for magazines, publishing houses and art projects.

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