

Latin America & Caribbean: Recent Breakthroughs in Biodiversity, Astronomy

Science · Answer Key · 11 Questions

1. Which newly discovered plant species, found in the Amazon rainforest, is named *Guatteria amazonica* and has potential medicinal applications?

- A) Guatteria amazonica**
- B) Annona muricata
- C) Rollinia deliciosa
- D) Spondias mombin

2. What significant astronomical development occurred in Chile in October 2025 with the activation of the 4MOST instrument on the VISTA telescope?

- A) Mapping the Milky Way's structure and chemical evolution with unprecedented detail**
- B) Discovering the closest potentially habitable exoplanet
- C) Confirming the existence of a new dwarf galaxy
- D) Detecting gravitational waves from a distant black hole merger

3. In 2024, a Conservation International expedition in Peru's Alto Mayo Landscape discovered 27 new species. Which of the following was NOT among the newly discovered mammal types?

- A) Bat
- B) Amphibious mouse
- C) Squirrel**
- D) Spiny mouse

4. What is the primary focus of the CARDENT project, a major initiative being developed by Cuban scientists?

- A) Prediction and treatment of cardiovascular diseases**
- B) Development of new antibiotics
- C) Research into neurodegenerative disorders
- D) Advancements in cancer immunotherapy

5. A significant paleontological discovery in Argentina in October 2025 involved a new genus and species of abelisaurid theropod dinosaur that roamed approximately 80 million years ago. What is its name?

- A) Vitosaura colozacani**
- B) Giganotosaurus carolinii
- C) Carnotaurus sastrei
- D) Mapusaurus roseae

6. In 2025, a UK-led expedition named "Beyond the Reef" began mapping vast, previously uncharted deep-sea areas of the Caribbean. What is a key goal of this expedition?

A) To discover new species and ecosystems

- B) To locate sunken pirate treasure
- C) To find evidence of lost underwater cities
- D) To establish new deep-sea mining sites

7. What unique characteristic defines the new plant species **Guatteria amazonica found in the Amazon?**

A) Small, greenish flowers with a vanilla-like aroma

- B) Large, brightly colored flowers that attract specific pollinators
- C) Bioluminescent leaves that glow at night
- D) A thorny stem structure that deters herbivores

8. The archaeological discovery at Aguada Fénix in Mexico's Tabasco region, dating to around 1000 BCE, has provided evidence of what?

A) Early Maya communities with organized labor and social structure

- B) A fully developed writing system comparable to modern alphabets
- C) Large-scale metalworking techniques
- D) A complex system of hieroglyphic cartography

9. In which region of South America was a 60-million-year-old grape seed fossil, the oldest in the continent, discovered by Mónica Carvalho?

A) Colombian Andes

- B) Patagonian Steppe
- C) Brazilian Cerrado
- D) Andes Mountains of Peru

10. What major advancement in renewable energy regulation occurred across Latin America and the Caribbean throughout 2024, according to OLACDE?

A) Phased transitions in clean energy projects for public buildings and lighting

- B) Mandatory adoption of nuclear fusion power
- C) Subsidies for fossil fuel extraction
- D) Abolition of all renewable energy incentives

11. What is the name of the new species of sandfly discovered at the Manu Biological Station in late 2024, which carries the parasite **Leishmania?**

A) *Trichophoromyia macrisae*

- B) *Phlebotomus papatasi*
- C) *Lutzomyia longipalpis*
- D) *Sergentomyia trenti*