

Latin America & Caribbean: Recent Breakthroughs in Biodiversity, Astronomy

Science · Practice Test · 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) *Vitosauro 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*