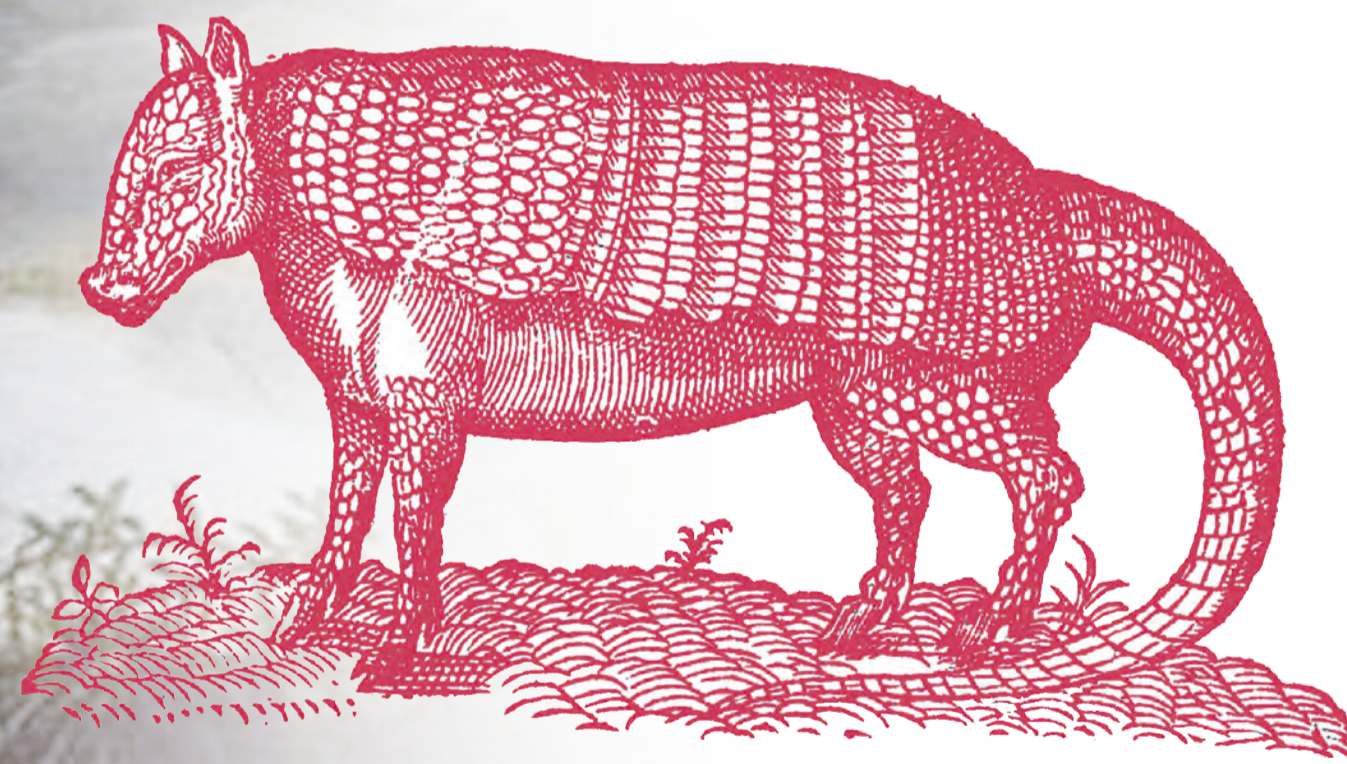


**CUATRO ARMADILLO**, Venezuela, ca. 2000. The resonator is made from armadillo (*dasypoda*) carapace, the head of the animal is remodeled on the base of the neck. Armadillo armor is traditionally used for *charangos*, but also for other types of larger or smaller guitars. The exact origin of the *charango* is unclear, but it is certain that it is a descendant of European stringed instruments that found their way here in the course of colonization of the South American continent.



In South America, armadillos are often hunted for their tasty meat, which, in addition to habitat destruction by humans, has already led to a threatening decimation of some species. In contrast, the nine-banded armadillo, is constantly spreading further into North America.

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Pierre Belon: *Les Observations De Plusieurs Singularites et Choses Memorables* [...] Paris 1553, 467

Frans Post: *Brasilian Landscape with Armadillo* (1649), Alte Pinakothek Munich, Inv. nr. 1561

# ARMADILLO

