

## Project Update: January 2017

Data collection in different slopes of mountain from Mt Bamboutos (between 5°40'00"N and 10°03'00"E), Manengouba (N5.00434°-E9.82047°), and Oku (N 6.23243° - E 10.50009°) were carried out. Visits were done from November 2016 to January 2017. During these last three months fieldwork was conducted in many localities of our study sites. Threats, different habitats, distribution data and GPS coordinates have been collected by using visual encountered surveys along transects. The following diversity and abundance of endemics skinks have been found:

- Five endemic species, *Lacertaspis lepesmei*, *Lacertaspis chriswildi*, *Trachylepis mekuana*, *Leptosiaphos ianthinoxantha* and *Leptosiaphos vigitisserierum*, have been collected around 2300 and 2700 m asl on Mt Bamboutos. All these species share the same habitat characterised by low grasses due to the permanent presence of cattle.
- On Mt Oku, *Lacertaspis chriswildii* has been recorded around Ngashie village between 1800 and 2200 m asl where their habitat still appears intact. The specimen were observed along a small river
- No species has not yet been collected on Mt Manengouba due to high variety of anthropogenic activities but the presence of the genus *Leptosiaphos* is known there.

All survey was done during the day between 9 am to 3pm and the following picture show how we were sample species (fig 1) and for all the endemic species encountered so far, altitudinal range, GPS coordinates have been recorded. This will help map endemic species distribution by the end of the study.



Fig 1: Marina Kameni collecting skinks



Fig 2: Habitat of skinks on Bamboutos Mountain

The particularity of this first part of sampling was the presence of *Lacertaspis chriswildii* (fig 2.) on Bamboutos Mountain only know previously from Mt Oku and Takamamnda forest. This is a new record of distribution of this endemic skink. In further sampling, we intend to accentuate our research on Bamboutos Mountain with luck to find this skink and maybe other endemics skinks not known previously there. At the end of this work, I have planned to produce a poster that can be use in the village with all endemics skinks found in Bamboutos with information about their status regarding to the Cameroonain law. We also intend to write a short note on distribution and publish it in a journal.



Left : *Lacertaspis chriswildii*. Right : *Leptosiaphos vigitisserierum*



Left: *Leptosiaphos ianthinoxantha*. Right: *Lacertaspis lepesmei* (from bamboutos)