

Project Update: March 2013

We conducted our third expedition at Sitio Cagan, New Bataan, Compostela Valley Province from March 23rd – 28th 2013. I was struck by the area because I did not expect to find like it in Compostela Valley after all the devastation of Typhoon Pablo in December 2012 and mixtures of socio-economic activities like mining, logging, and forest clearing around the province. The place was so nice, the water is still pristine where you can just fetch in the river and drink from it and the people were homogenously indigenous with “Mandaya” as their main dialect.

We spent three nights of light trapping at their main river systems. Different species of insects were gathered by the team with beetles as the most diverse group, several months, butterflies, and the rarest to find are plecopterans. So far we have gathered 20+ plecopteran materials waiting for final identification by Ignac. All specimens are stored in Father Melanson Museum of Natural History at Assumption College of Nabunturan. Other activities of the team are posted in our website www.minirg.org.

In addition, we are invited by the “Datu” (local name for tribal leader) to come again in Sitio Cagan in August 2013 to present our data to the villagers and provide some instructional materials for the youth. We are planning to duplicate this activity to other municipalities if we still have the budget.



