

Project Update: October 2014

Data collection in different vegetation types from Mt Cameroon, Manengouba and Oku were carried out. Visits were done from June to August 2014, in the following localities: Around Nsoug on the southern slope of Mount Manengouba (N5.00434°-E9.82047°), Ngashie, north of Kilum forest on Mt Oku (N6.23243° - E10.50009°) and Ekona Lelu, North-eastern slope of Mt Cameroon (N0533036 — E0472001). The following diversity and abundance have been found:

- Mt Cameroon: 85 *Trioceros montium*;
- Mt Manengouba: 1 *T. montium*, 1 *T. pfefferi*, 16 *T. perreti*, 17 *T. quadricornis quadricornis*;
- Mt Oku: 11 *T. serratus*, 19 *T. quadricornis gracilior*.

The survey in Ngashie has been done in a mix of secondary forest and farm at an elevation comprise between 1800 and 2200 m asl. As the village is located at the vicinity of the forest, a survey of the specie *T. serratus* have done there at night and 11 individuals were observed on house fence which are made of living small trees. The second specie *T. quadricornis gracilior* were all observed in the forest and farm around the village.

The survey in Ekona Lelu has been done in at an elevation range between 800 to 1100 m asl around the village. All of the individuals of *T. montium* the only mountain endemic chameleon found on Mt Cameroon were observed at an elevation comprise between 900 and 1100 m asl. A total of 54 individuals were observed at the vicinity of farm and forest. An adult male of *T. montium* has been found with the two horns sliced maybe by a machete in less disturbed forest area close to a cleared farm in Ekona Lelu (fig 1).



***Trioceros pfefferi* ♀ (Mt Manengouba)**

Of the 4 endemic species of chameleons known from Mt Manengouba, (*T. montium*, *T. pfefferi*, *T. quadricornis quadricornis* and *T. perreti*) only a single individual of *T. pfefferi* was recorded which was a gravid female (fig 2) in the forest near to the village at an elevation of 1521 m asl. All the 17 individuals of *T. quadricornis quadricornis* have been recorded in the forest. The single individual of *T. montium* was recorded in a coffee farm while the 16 individuals of *T. perreti* were found on fern plants in the savannah.

All chameleons observed so far had variations in their various habitat selections and perch heights. For example, *T. montium* from Mt Cameroon perch height was comprised between 0.67 to 5.7 m. *T. quadricornis quadricornis* perch height was comprised between 1.6 and 6 m. *T. perreti* perch height was comprised between 0.44 and 1.6 m. *T. serratus* perch height was comprised between 0.3 and 1.4 m. *T. quadricornis gracilior* perch height was comprised between 1 and 5 m.

In the village of Nsong farming practices are progressively invading the mountain forest as we found many important coco yam farms at an elevation extending around 1700 m asl. On Oku the deforestation for logging is quite important in the area, with several trees deforested in the area.



During the survey in Nsong and Ekona Lelu we did a meeting with the chief of each village about the status of the chameleon in general and the endemics one particularly and the threat. From the meeting in Nsong it comes that a local NGO founded by a local villager called Prosper Etchibeh will start helping me in raising awareness in the village about responsible behaviour regarding to the forest. And in Ekona Lelu, I trained my guide in identification of local

Cocoyams farm on Mt Manengouba (1800 m asl) chameleon found there (*Trioceros montium*, *T. cristatus*, *T. oweni* and *Rampholeon Spectrum*). I have planned to produce a poster that can be hung in the village with all the species of chameleon found there with information about their status regarding to the Cameroonian law and I will also give a talk.



Left to Right, Top to Bottom : *Rampholeon spectrum* ; *Trioceros montium* Female Ekona Lelu ; *Trioceros montium* Male Ekona Lelu ; *Trioceros montium* Male Ekona Lelu ; *Trioceros montium* Male Ekona Lelu & *Trioceros montium* Male Ekona Lelu