

Project Update: March 2017

From October 22nd to November 24th 2016, we conducted the first fieldwork for the project. The team was led by myself and another RF grant recipient Camila Meneses (who studies amphibians and reptiles) and composed of field guides from Polillo island and some locals in Sibuyan. In this fieldwork, we explored five elevations in the northern slope of Mt. Guiting-Guiting which also represent different habitat types. We experienced consistently cold and wet weather throughout the month-long fieldwork with temperature as low as 16°C and consistently high humidity at around 95% accompanied with strong winds.

The number of captures using mist nets and harp traps was lower than expected. There were notable observations on the behaviour of bats especially the insectivorous species that probably contributed to low capture rates. Although low in terms of number of individuals, we have documented 11 species of bats including the new distribution record for *Kerivoula hardwickii* and *Pepistrellus cf tenuis*. Mist netting was also successful in capturing the endemic and undescribed species of *Haplonycteris* and the endangered Philippine tube-nosed fruit bat, *Nyctimene rabori*.

Voucher calls were recorded for all insectivorous species that were captured, using the Pettersson M500 detector received from IdeaWild. Nightly recording of bat calls to estimate bat activity was also done using the Anabat Detector.

Currently, I am working on analysing the call recordings and sorting all the insect samples. We also plan to conduct another month-long fieldwork during the dry season, most probably in May 2017.



The field expedition team led by James Alvarez (standing, 2nd from left) and Camila Meneses (standing, 1st from left)



Left: The team setting up harp traps to collect insect bats. Right: The Philippine tube-nosed fruit bat.