

Project Update: January 2011

Since September 2010, four visits of 6 days each per month have been undertaken on the study site. Three species of bats were observed when visiting focal trees, *Eidolon helvum*, *Epomophorus gambianus* and *Micropteropus pusillus*. Among these species, only *Eidolon helvum* and *Epomophorus gambianus* were observed taking fruits of *Azadirachta indica*. Night observation on focal trees (96 hours) reveals that *Eidolon helvum* were recorded eating fruits on about 8.3 % of the visiting population, while *Epomophorus gambianus* were recorded eating fruits on focal tree on more than 90 % of the overall population. We have also observed a progressive migration of the *Eidolon* colony of Maroua with the arrival of the wet season in August. To date, faecal sample analysis reveals nine plant species in the diet of *Eidolon helvum*. These plants mainly include fruits of agricultural plants (papaya, guavas, etc.). Diurnal observation reveals that five species of birds were observed taking or eating fruits of *Azadirachta indica*.

