

Project Update: February 2009

To date eight visits of seven days have been carried out in the study site from July 2008. These visits have allowed us to well document bat ecology and distribution in the Dja reserve. In total, 212 bats of 27 species belonging to 8 families were captured. Among this diversity, we have record 8 fruit bat species: *Epomops franqueti*, *Hypsignathus monstrosus*, *Eidolon helvum*, *Roussetus aegyptiacus*, *Megaloglossus woermanni*, *Myonycteris torquata*, *Scotonycteris zenkeri*, *Epomops buettikoferi*. Among these, *Epomops buettikoferi* was record for the first time in Cameroon and in Central Africa.

This species was known only from the western part of Africa. IUCN red list (2008) summarized the record of this species in 9 countries in West Africa –Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d’ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. The geographic position of this record suggests that the range of the species covers more region of West Africa than was previously thought. The present record raising the number of fruit bats species known to occur in Cameroon from 14 to 15.

Faecal sample analysis revealed at least 18 plants species belonging to 13 family dispersed by fruit bat in the study site (tab 1)

Tab 1: Food plants species of fruit bats species in the Dja reserve

Fruit bat species	Plant species	Family	Food type
<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	- <i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Bombabaceae	Flower
	- <i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Musanga cecropioides</i>	Cecropiaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Terminalia superba</i>	Combretaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Albizia sp</i>	Leguminosae	Leaves
	<i>Persea Americana</i>	Lauraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Chlorophora exclesa</i>	Moraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Ficus exasperata</i>		Fruit
	- <i>Ficus sp</i>		Fruit
	- <i>Musa spp</i>	Musaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Eucalyptus sp</i>		Fruit
	- <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Fruit
- <i>Elais guinneensis</i>		Fruit	
<i>Epomops franqueti</i>	- <i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Musa spp</i>	Musaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Persea americana</i>	Lauraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Ficus sp</i>	Moraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Solanum torvum</i>	Solonaceae	Fruit
- <i>Dyospiros mespiliformis</i>	Ebenaceae	fruit	
<i>Epomops buettikoferi</i>	- <i>Ficus sp</i>	Moraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	fruit
<i>Hypsignathus monstrosus</i>	- <i>Chlorophora exclesa</i>	Moraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Musanga cecropioides</i>	Cecropioaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Ficus sp</i>	Moraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Musa spp</i>	Musaceae	Fruit

	- <i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Fruit
<i>Myonycteris torquata</i>	- <i>Musa spp</i>	Musaceae	//
	- <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	//
	- <i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Bombabaceae	//
	- <i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	//
<i>Megaloglossus woermanni</i>	- <i>Musa spp</i>	Musaceae	//
	- <i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	//
<i>Roussetus aegytiacus</i>	- <i>Ficus sp</i>	Moraceae	Fruit
	- <i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Solanum torvum</i>	Solonaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Musa spp</i>	Musaceae	Fruit
	- <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	fruit

During this period, we have spent 25 days for observations at feeding and day roosts. These observations allow me to discover 12 sites with bats colonies (4 caves & 8 trees). We will realize a GPS mapping of these sites at the end of the study

Parallel to this bat survey, local people were interviewed to assess the exploitation of bats as bushmeat, especially in their day roosts, as well as their cultural significance. These interviews revealed a low exploitation level of bats for bush-meat in and around Dja reserve.



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Above: *Hipposideros gigas*. Below: Eric Bakwo in the field

