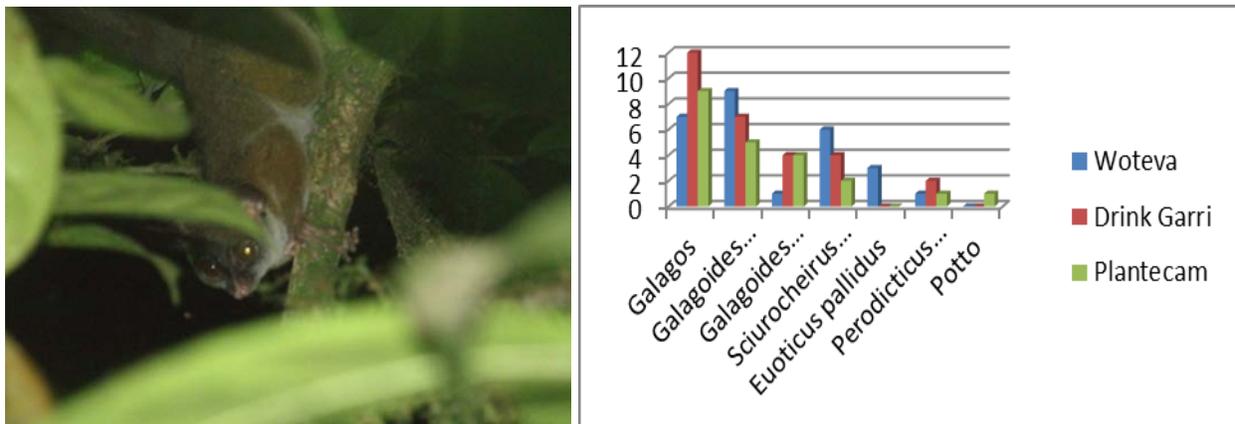


Project Update: March 2018

During the past few months (December 2017-present) we intensified our surveys of nocturnal primates in and around communities around the Mount Cameroon National Park (Woteva community forest: N04.22124° E009.28311°, 802 m asl; Drink Garri: N04.09992° E009.06304°, 632 m asl; and Plantecam: N04.11761° E009.07213°, 1098 m asl). A total of eight reconnaissance transects in Woteva and seven each for Drink Garri and Plantecam were identified and walked between dusk ie 19:10 and 22.00 in search of these primates. Thus far, of the six species of nocturnal primates recorded in Mount Cameroon (Oates, 2011) only one species, the agwantibo (*Arctocebus calabarensis*) has not been observed. All the other species (*Galagoides demidovii*, *Galagoides thomasi*, *Euoticus pallidus*, *Schiurocheirus alleni* and *Perodicticus edwardsi*) have been spotted and recorded at least once. Many of the observed animals were seen mostly on trees rather than on lianas at various heights. *Galagoides thomasi* has been seen to be the most abundant species so far in this study.



Left: *Schiurocheirus alleni cameronensis* at Drink Garri. ©Fominka Nestor. Right: Population and species richness across the three studied areas. Galagos and Potto represent sightings that could not be identified to species level.

In addition to transects survey in Woteva village, questionnaires were also administered to sample the opinion and impact of the local population on the studied species. The results shows that these animals are being eaten although this practice is reduced today as many respondants haven't eaten it in the last 10 years. A few people also noted using them for traditional medicine. There also exist no human - animal conflict as these primates don't destroy any of their crops. The only exception is potto which drinks palm wine. A more clear picture of human impact on these animals will be obtained when we administer questionnaires in the other three remaining villages in the months ahead. Only very few photos of not very good quality of some species have been taken. This is due to the fact that it is night and also the fact that they are shy and will dash away at the sight of torch light, even though not as shy as their diurnal counterparts. The coming months will see the sampling of the remaining villages and the upper elevations in the national park.