

## Project Update: December 2021

The following is the report of the field work from September to December 2021. The following villages were sampled around our study site (Tchabal-Mbabo): Fongoi, Mayo Kelele and Sambolabo.

1) Study composition, distribution, and status of amphibians,  
During this another period of our survey, we have been able to document diversity and abundance of amphibians in our study site.

**Site 1: Fongoi.** Habitat type: gallery forest.

Here, we had three species from one genera and one family (Arthroleptidae). We had 22 specimens of *Astylosternus rheophilus*, six of *Astylosternus* sp.1 and 16 of *Astylosternus* sp. 2.

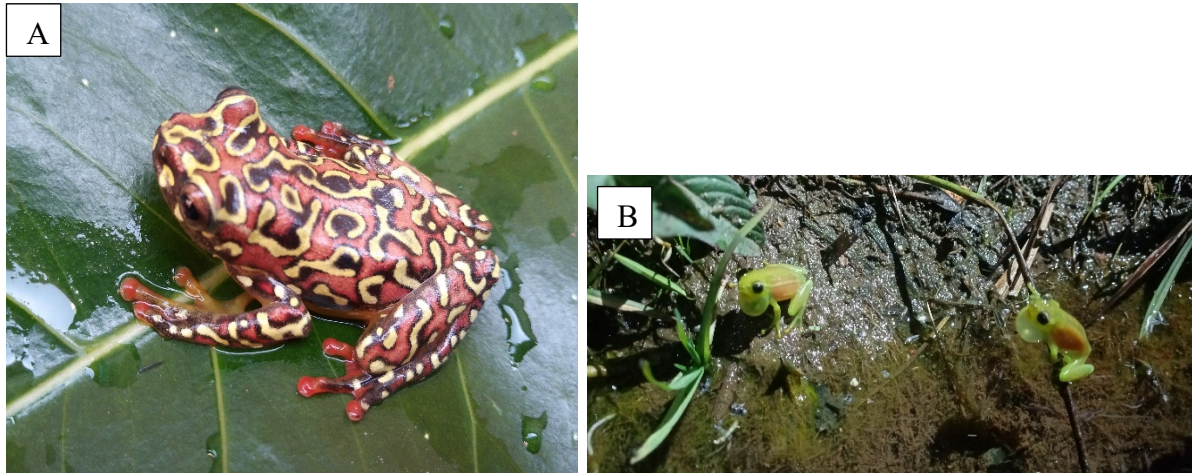


**Figure 1:** A= *Astylosternus rheophilus*, B= *Astylosternus* sp1, C= *Astylosternus* sp2.

**Site 2: Mayo-Kelele.** Habitat type: Savanah.

Here, we had five species from three genera and three families.

**Transect 1: Near Matelela river.** GPS coordinate 07.17837N 012.02694E 1684m, we had two specimens of *Hyperolius riggenbachi* (Hyperoliidae), 10 of *Hyperolius igbettensis* and four of *Xenopus* cf. *eysoole* (Pipidae).



**Figure 2:** A= *Hyperolius riggenbachi*, B= *Hyperolius igbettensis*.

**Transect 2: Near Moussa River.** GPS coordinate 07.16856N 012.02791E 1644m. Here we had six specimens of *Hyperolius igbettensis*.

**Transect 3: Near Alim river.** GPS coordinate 07.16359 N 012.02619 E 1642 m. Here we had one specimen of *Ptychadena mascareniensis* (Ptychadenidae), six of *Ptychadena* cf. *oxyrynchus* and three of *Hyperolius igbettensis*.

- 2) Understand factors (vegetation, seasonality, habitat, human activities) influencing the occurrence of the batrachofauna

Up to now, we noted during our sampling around the Tchabal-Mbabo mountain other factors/threats that can explain why we have not yet found some of our flagship species (*Cardioglossa alsco* or *Astylosternus rheophilus tchabalensis*). We can cite, among others, anthropic activities around some of our river sites such as the one of Goumti river (figure 3 A). Also, we have noted that near Mayo-Kelele village, some people have secured their lands to avoid cattle destroying them. Figure 3 is an illustration of anthropic activities.





Figure 3 A: Illustration of anthropic activities near Goumti river



Figure 3 B: Illustration of anthropic activities near Mayo-Kelele village.

Also, during our surveys in Sambolabo in November (dry season), the water levels have decreased, and we have not seen some species found there in other months like *Afrivalus* sp., *Leptopelis* sp. and *Phrynobatrachus* sp. It's therefore possible that seasonality influences the occurrence of the batrachofauna.

### 3) Collect GPS coordinates of breeding sites

Habitat type : gallery forest.

During our survey, we have recorded two breeding sites. One in Fongoi (Figure 4) with GPS coordinate 07.25207N 012.05937E 2053m where we found one breeding site of *Astylosternus* sp. and another one in Mayo-Kelele near Matelela river with GPS coordinate 07.17825N 012.02704E 1691m. Goumti River were absent, surely because



of human activity around that site. The following figure 4 is the illustration of breeding site of *Astylosternus* sp. in Fongoi.



Figure 4: Breeding site of *Astylosternus* sp. in Fongoi.