

Project Update: November 2010

During September and October 2010, I conducted field research in two localities in Ghana: the Ankasa Rainforest (N 05.28166°; W 002.64303°) and Afadjato forest (N 07.02868°; W 000.56090°). The purpose of this trip was to collect bird samples for the second phase of my research project on bird species with disjunct distributions across the Dahomey Gap in West Africa. During this fieldwork, a total of 144 individuals of 14 bird species were captured. From these birds, blood and feather samples were collected, as well as muscles tissue from a small sample of birds that were skinned and prepared as museum specimens. Morphological traits were also measured for all individuals.

Furthermore, I caught a sufficient number of individuals of some species that were in addition to those originally planned, including *Styphornis erythrothorax* and *Cyanomitra olivaceus*. These species are interesting for my study, but were not captured in Cameroon during the first phase of data collection. My next step is therefore to carry out an additional field research in Cameroon to obtain samples and data for these species. This will permit me to compare more species and thereby provide a more general test of the importance of the Dahomey Gap in shaping divergence in West African birds.



Left: Bird's morphological measurements Jean-Bernard (with gloves and mask) was measuring while the field assistant was taking notes. Middle: Blood sampling at the Kwanta Camp located in the hearth of the ANKASA Rainforest. Right: Jean-Bernard removing a bird from the net for sample collection.