

Project Update: April 2013

From April 12th-14th 2013 the team went to the municipality of Montevista for its third sampling site. The area was severely devastated by Typhoon Pablo last December 2012. Several trees were cut down and the mountains are devastated by numerous landslides. The people are trying to recover and started building their houses again with the aid of some international humanitarian agencies i.e. Red Cross, PLAN, UNDP, AUSAID, USAID, etc. A suitable sampling area was found at Sitio Tawin-tawin (N 07 47 539, E 125 54 183) relatively undisturbed. Though we only spent 3 days in the area for security reasons, still we have gathered 14 individuals.

The next area visited was at Barangay Cabuyuan in the municipality of Mabini from April 21st-23rd 2013. Due to rainy weather throughout the last 2 weeks of the month, the team only spent short visits in the area. Three individuals were collected in Mabini raising our total collection to 46 individuals from four sampling sites (Cabalanan, Sitio Cagan New Bataan, Tawin-tawin Montevista, and Barangay Cabuyuan Mabini). Forty specimens are now ready for shipment to Ignac Sivec for final identification and verification. Our preliminary assessment revealed that most individuals collected are under Family Perlidae. Let's just pray that our specimens have potential individuals new to science.

We halted our sampling for the month of May 2013 due to the national mid-term election on May 13th 2013 here in the Philippines. It is very risky for the team to go up to the mountains since rebels and several armed groups are very active this time. We will resume our sampling a week after the election (from about May 20th onwards) at the municipality of Laak, municipality of Compostela, and municipality of Maco (in May and June 2013).



