

Project Update: March 2015

The first step of this project was done in March 2015, in dry season after the management fire of the Biosphere Reserve of Pendjari. Gallery forest, floodplain and savanna ecosystems were explored using transects lines of various distances. The orchid species were recorded and representative voucher specimen collected. The demographic parameters of host plants and habitat type were determined.

Calyptrochilum christyanum is the only one epiphytic orchid recorded in dry season. Seven host plants, all located in the bed of the stream, were identified - *Breonadia salicina*, *Syzygium guineense*, *Berlinia grandiflora*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Isobertinia* spp., *Ficus* spp. and *Tamarindus indica*. Most of the gallery forests studied in the core zone and the hunting zone of the reserve are dry explaining the small number of orchids and host plants. All of the explored galleries in the land use areas were facing human activities: deforestation, pasture, motorcycles washing, laundry, and brick making for construction.



Left: *Calyptrochilum christyanum* individual on its main host tree, *Syzygium guineense*. Middle: *Calyptrochilum christyanum* leaves. Right: Presents the degradation of gallery forests by brick making for construction.