

## Project Update: March 2016

Into our first trip to the western highlands we visited the towns of Nebaj and Uspantán at Quiche. At Nebaj we collected at several patches of cloud forest and oak forest, both types of forests are highly endangered by pasture fields, substitution of natural forest by pine forests and the dissection of forest by high voltage electric transmission lines. Most of the forests are under communitarian or local governmental property. Local empowerment of natural resources and biodiversity is high, so exploring the forests might need the previous authorisation of the communal authorities and to hire a local guide. We also collected at “Sierra de Los Cuchumatanes” and Alta Verapaz. We have started sorting weevils from samples and putting them on freezing for further molecular analyses.



Local guide collecting leaf litter weevils into a cloud forest in Nebaj, Quiche.



Rivers coming down from the Cloud Forests from “Cerro El Amay” through “Zona Reyna” at Uspantán, Quiche.