

Project Update: February 2017

In August 2015 during my field-research at Mouangko and the surrounding areas funded by the 1st RSGF I took a boat to work on the mangroves around the Sanaga River and continued via connecting channels into the Lake Ossa wetland complex. We stopped for lunch on Bedimet Island when I observed local people cutting vegetation. I engaged them in conversation and explained the negative impacts that will result from the large-scale destruction of plants on the island. It was then that I noticed three small freshwater crabs on land, one damaged (perhaps from the vegetation destruction), and the other two in good condition that I collected and preserved in ethanol. I suspected that these specimens belonged to the rare (and possibly extinct) species (*Louisea edeaensis*) that had not been collected for over 100 years but I needed an adult male specimen to be more certain. In January 2016 I returned to Bedimet Island in Lake Ossa (supported by a grant from the “Congo Basin Grant Program”, but using equipment from my 1st Rufford Small Grant).