

## Project Update: December 2017

We have completed the first phase of the field work. The observation data has been fully sorted into taxonomic groups and this is currently been prepared for the first manuscript to be submitted to a journal for publication. A total of 71 flower visiting insects were observed to be in interaction with 32 flowering plant species. A total of 900 minutes of observations were made which yielded 1,344 interactions. Interaction frequency and network size decreased with elevation with less interacting species recorded at the peak elevation zone. Flower-visiting insects also differed in composition and species richness across zones of elevation. Response of flower-visiting insects also differed among taxonomic groups. Bigger sized flower visiting insects were recorded at the peak zone on the mountain, however, low abundance and richness of interacting partners were recorded at this zone. This first extract of the research showed upward shift in interaction networks and the vulnerability of the peak zone to loss of local species. We also met with local farmers around neighbouring community of our study site who were curious about our visit to the mountain and educated them on the importance biodiversity friendly agriculture and how they could employ the service of local pollinators for the improvement of their yield. The data from the pan traps are still been sorted and updates on these will be available as soon as sorting is completed. This data will also be compared with the second phase of the study to understand diversity partitioning across the zones of elevation.



Laboratory sorting of flower-visiting insect in progress