

Project Update: July 2017

Upon the arrival of team at research site, we have sensitised and familiarised the group of forest officials with the objectives, significance and expected outcomes of our research. The team has also briefed the local community on the importance and value of conserving cave invertebrates.

As per the schedule reflected in the proposal, myself and the team have successfully completed the first phase of data collection from 15th April to 19th May, 2017. Despite a few torrential downpours and accommodation constraints, it was fairly a successful endeavour.

The data collection of the pre-monsoon season has been completed without any delay and to the timeline outlined in the project. The specimens collected from various caves of Khoma were well preserved in the 70% ethanol solution. Some samples have been already identified and few are on the verge of completion. The team has consulted and talked to many experts and field specialists whenever facing difficulty in identifying species.

The next phase (monsoon) of data collection (fieldwork) is expected to commence from mid-July.

The first round of data collection (pre-monsoon) would not have been possible without the immense assistance from the Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary and Khoma Park Range Office.



Figure 1: Placing cheese baited and meat baited traps in the cave



Figure 2: Recording humidity and temperature



Figure 3: Team leader and a view of study area (Khoma)