

Project Update: April 2020

February to March 2020 was dedicated to fieldwork (mostly arthropod sampling) and laboratory work (arthropod sorting and preservation). School children and citizen scientists were introduced to how samples from pitfall traps and beating tray are harvested from the field (Figure 1 & 2). The various stages of sorting arthropod samples were also demonstrated, and participants were given the opportunity to practice and group arthropods with the help of a microscope into different taxa / order (Figure 5). They were finally exposed to how to record samples in the field notebook for further analysis (Figure 6).



Figure 1: PI and some citizen scientists sampling with the beating tray and insect aspirator. Figure 2: Harvesting sample catch from pitfall trap.



Figure 3: Harvested unsorted arthropod samples. Figure 4: Pupil sorting arthropod samples.



Figure 5A: Pupil using microscope for arthropod identification. Figure 5B: Pupil using microscope for arthropod identification.



Figure 6: Pupil recording sorted arthropod samples. Figure 5: Sampled orb-weaver spider by project participants.

(**Order:** Araneae, **Family:** Araneidae, **Genus:** Gasteracantha,
Common name: Spider, **Local name:** Kweku Ananse

Table 1: Summary of activities and their status

Phases	Activities	Remarks
Phase 1	Permit acquisition to work in the community forest Stakeholder engagements	Completed
Phase 2	Capacity building of staffs, volunteers and relevant partners Campaign in schools and communities to select project participants	Completed
Phase 3	Designing and refining field methods	Completed
Phase 4	Field work Arthropod sorting Data management Results compilation	Completed
Phase 5	Conservation education, awareness program Publicizing results	Ongoing
Phase 6	Scientific paper and report writing	Ongoing