

Project Update: May 2020

Summary

So far we have successfully organised a capacity building workshop, undertaken a reconnaissance survey to familiarise ourselves with the study area and have almost completed field work for data collection. We are now sorting the litter samples collected for microscopic snails and also identification.

Field expedition in the Atewa Range Forest reserve

Fieldwork for the exploration of molluscan biodiversity in the Atewa range forest reserve has been completed successfully.



Figure 1: field team ready to embark on snail 'hunting' (left); team leader explaining some features in identifying particular snail families



Figure 2: Litter sorting and grouping of snails into Recognisable Taxonomic Units (RTUs) for potential identification



Figure 3: Some specimen from the field: *Gonaxis* sp. (smooth shelled) (left) and *Saphtia* sp. (right).



Figure 4: Some potential threats to existence of snails and biodiversity in general at the Atewa forest reserve; illegal peasant farming (left) and illegal felling of trees (chain-sawed lumber being cart out of the forest) (right)