

Project Update: April 2011

In April 2011, I carried out a field research in Meyo-Centre, a forest located in the southern part of Cameroon (N 02.58230°; E 011.02990°). The aim of this research was to collect bird samples mainly from *Styphornis erythrothorax* and *Cyanomitra olivaceus*, so as to equilibrate samples from individuals of the same species that I previously garnered in Ghana. Data from these two species will allow me to compare more species and thereby provide a more general test of the importance of the Dahomey Gap in shaping divergence in West African birds.

During this field trip, I collected blood and feather samples as well as morphological measurements from 29 birds. These birds included three *Styphornis erythrothorax*, five *Cyanomitra olivaceus*, 10 *Andropadus latirostris*, five *Phyllastrephus icterinus*, one *Phyllastrephus xavieri* and five *Spermophaga haematina*.

Data from the four additional species will permit to have a more representative sample for more reliable statistical analysis.



Left: Taking the weight of a *Styphornis erythrothorax*. Right: Measurement of an *Andropadus latirostris*'s wing length. ©Jean Bernard.