

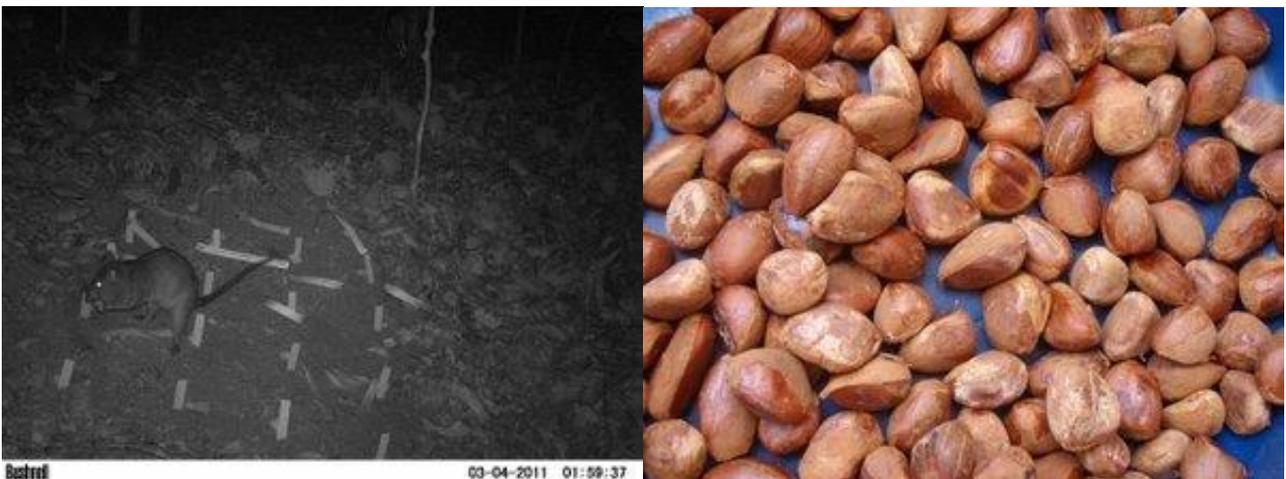
Project Update: May 2011

The first two phases of the project (plot setup and seed removal experiments) have been completed. In January and February 2011, we established three 50 x 50 m plots in each of four different forest blocks (12 plots total), each plot containing at least four fruiting *Allanblackia* trees. Each time we visited the plots, we counted how many new fruits had fallen in the plot and whether or not the seeds were harvested by people.

In March and April 2011, we conducted two rounds of seed removal experiments with 1152 tagged seeds total. Seeds were attached to a thread bobbin with wire and marked with a fluorescent yellow tag. One camera in each plot photographed animal dispersers. As suspected, the most common disperser is the giant pouched rat, *Cricetomys gambianus*. The fate of remaining seeds is being checked once per month.



Left: *Allanblackia* fruit cut open with a machete and seeds removed. Right: Carrie holding an *Allanblackia* fruit.



Left: Giant pouched rat, *Cricetomys gambianus*, removing seeds from the experiment. Right: Washed and dried *Allanblackia* seeds.