

Project Update: March 2022

We continued fieldwork on fruit availability and dietary ecology of chimpanzees on January 25, 2022, in Kom–Wum Forest Reserve. *Pseudospondias microcarpa* trees that started fruiting between December 2021 and February 2022 now have mature ripe and unripe fruits (figure 1a). Groundnut spice (*Monodonra myristica*) trees that had decaying fruits between December 2021 and February 2022 are now producing fruits (figure 1b). The bush pineapple (*Myranthus arboreus*) and pycnanthus (*Pycnanthus angolensis*) trees inflorescence between December 2021 and February 2022 have dropped their flowers and are presently fruiting (figure 1c&d, respectively). The many ripe *Landolphia* (*Landolphia* sp.3) fruits in liana between December 2021 and February 2022 have fallen to the forest floor. Consequently, there are few ripe *Landolphia* fruits in liana and riper and more decaying *Landolphia* fruits on the forest floor.

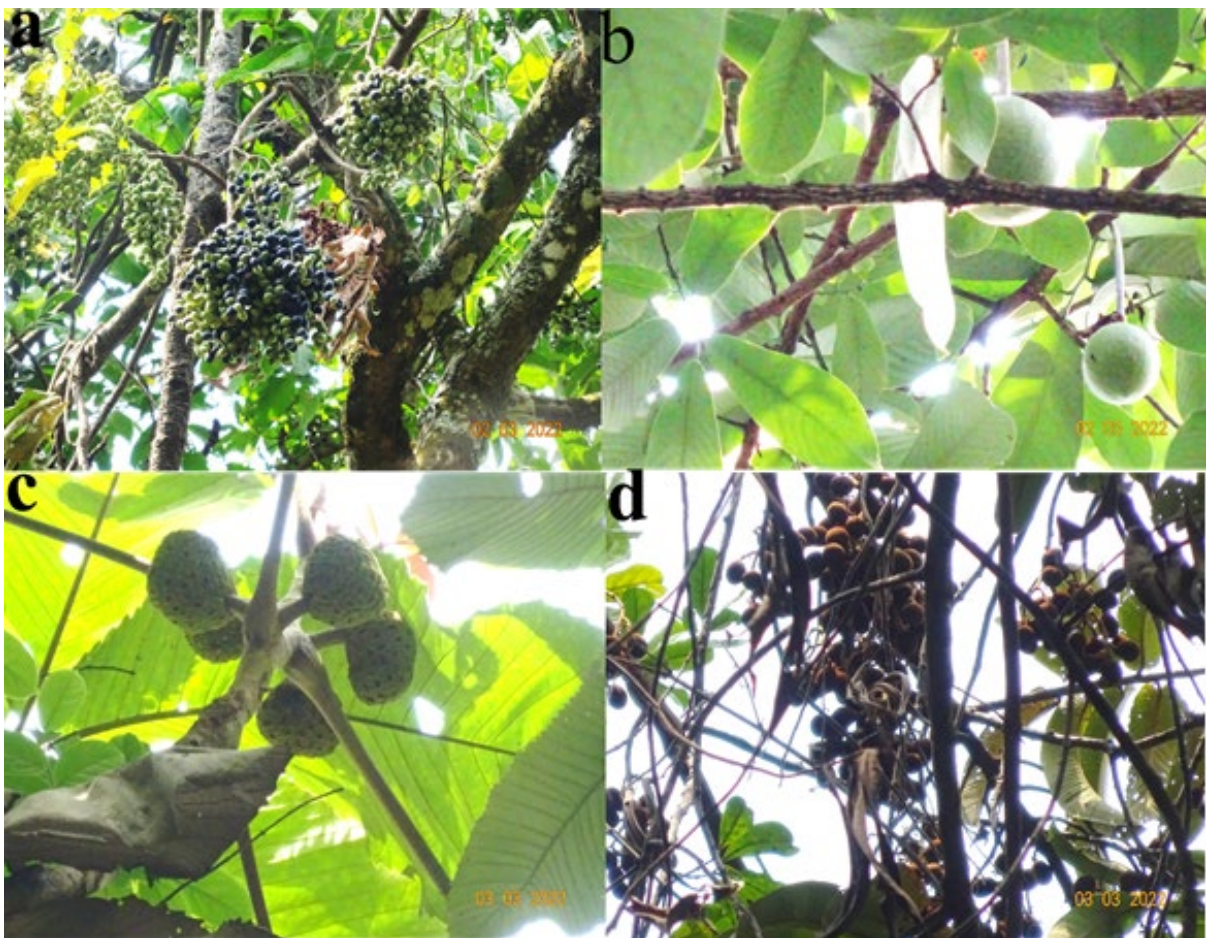


Figure 1: Phenology of important chimpanzee fruiting trees with a) mature ripe and unripe fruits of *Pseudospondias microcarpa*, b) young fruits of *Monodonra myristica*, c) young fruits of *Myranthus arboreus* and d) mature fruits of *Pycnanthus angolensis*.



Figure 2: Data collection with the principal investigator a) recording data on fruit availability and b) measuring the circumference of a chimpanzee fruiting tree.

Dietary ecology of chimpanzee

We still found no chimpanzee faeces during this phase of our survey. However, we recorded fresh chimpanzee nests and captured them on camera traps (Figure 3).

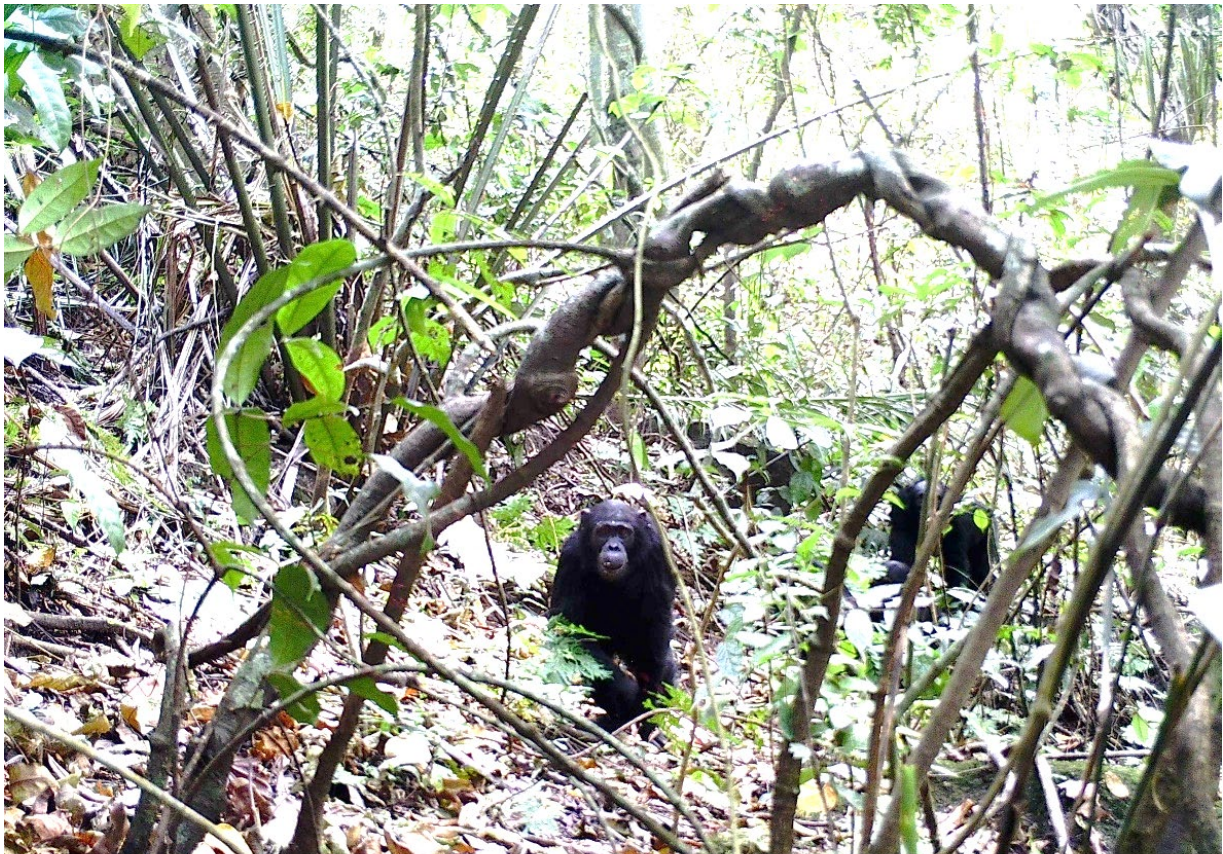


Figure 3: Young chimpanzee leading a chimpanzee group of four.

Further planning

Data collection will continue on March 15, 2022.