

YADOK BIPLANG GODWILL

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SUMMARY

I am interested in becoming a significant contributor advancing the study of terrestrial and fresh water ecology in New Zealand and around the globe. I have background research experience in studying arthropods, birds, small mammals and plants.

CORE SKILLS

- Teaching high school and tertiary students.
- Effective oral, visual and written communication.
- Identification of native New Zealand plants and birds.
- Ecological surveys and monitoring species populations.
- Data analyses and presentation using R, Density and QGIS and Microsoft Excel.
- Team building and multidisciplinary collaboration.

EDUCATION

PhD (Ecology), University of Canterbury, New Zealand. 2015–2018

Thesis title: Aspects of the behaviour of the African giant pouched rats (*Cricetomys* sp. nov) in relation to its seed dispersal potential in a West African montane forest landscape

MSc (Conservation Biology), University of Jos, Nigeria. 2011-2013

Thesis title: Habitat selection and Territory size of the Northern Anteater-chat (*Mymecocichla aiethiops*) in surrounding areas of Amurum Forest Reserve, Jos-Plateau, Nigeria

BSc (Zoology), University of Jos, Nigeria. 2004-2009

Thesis title: Diversity and abundance of fig wasp species in *Ficus abutilifolia* and *Ficus thonningii* in Amurum forest reserve

EXPERIENCE

June 2021— till date

Advisor, Plant Pest Risk Assessment, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington, New Zealand.

- Assessing pests risks to plants species
- Providing technical advice
- Consulting relevant stake holders

June 2020—June 2021

Ecologist, Te Whangai Trust, Miranda, Waikato, New Zealand

- Assessed and selected sites for native tree planting, providing ecological impact assessment for intended projects and estimating projected Carbon sequestration for intended restoration areas.
- Participated in quality assessment of streams and sampling of macro-invertebrates for a fresh water monitoring project in Waikato.
- Prepared biosecurity plans for planting projects and estimated Carbon sequestration for estimated projects.
- Participated in discussions with stakeholders (Department of Conservation, Waikato Regional Council and local *iwi*) and developed habitat restoration plans for lakes and farm sites.
- Training Māori youth in propagating native tree species in the nursery and planting in project sites.

September 2019—June 2020

Research Assistant, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

- Guided first year PhD (ecology) students in designing their research, determining best method of data collection, analyses of preliminary results and presentation.
- Maintained and expanded existing collaborations between the University of Canterbury-led Nigerian Montane Forest Project (NMFP) and various Nigerian Universities and organisations.
- Organised and curated long-term research data collected from the project's main site, Ngel-Nyaki Forest Reserve.
- Searched for grants and prepared proposals to apply for funding for the project.
- Analysed data from an avian seed dispersal project in NMFP and wrote the manuscript which was recently submitted to *Biotropica*.

February 2015 — December 2018

Doctoral Researcher, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury

Studied seed removal and predation by African giant pouched rats, leading to the discovery that the rats only act as seed dispersers during years of fruit abundance.

- Developed hypotheses and designed field experiments to test them
- Collected field and experimental data and analysed the data using appropriate statistical methods in R e.g. GLMMs, SECRs and Bayesian modelling.
- Completed my thesis within three years and successfully defended with only minor corrections.
- Published 4 research articles from my PhD in reputable peer-review journals which include *Behavioural processes* and *Acta Oecologica* within 3 years of submitting my thesis.

February 2017— February 2018

Academic Support Staff, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

- Assisted in teaching first year undergraduate students (Bio 113; Diversity of life), engaging them in conversations during tutorials to expand and deepen their understanding of concepts learned during lectures.
- Guided students in the use of laboratory equipment.

April 2015 —December 2017

Team Leader, IFS INVAFRICA Triffid weed project in forest reserves (GGNP and NNFR) in Nigeria.

- Successfully managed the budget and execution of triffid weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) survey project in two nature reserves: Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP) and Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve (NNFR), Nigeria.
- Prepared written reports for the funders, on completion of the study. This led to the funding of conference trip to Malaysia in order to present findings.

December 2015 — December 2017

Team Leader, Rufford small grant for biodiversity conservation in Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve (NMFP), Nigeria.

- Organised community meetings with stakeholders: primary/secondary school students and market women in the surrounding communities, to create awareness on the importance of conserving the Reserve.
- Created posters, questionnaire administration and drama presentation during the conservation education program increased local community's participation in further conservation programs.
- Trained field assistants and Undergraduate students in administering questionnaires, thus built trust and camaraderie between the local community and NMFP

January 2014 — January 2015

Research Associate, A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), Nigeria.

- I conducted wildlife surveys of behaviour and distribution of vertebrate animals and insects in Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve, to document species diversity. This has led to the establishment of a monthly bird survey protocol in Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve.
- Organised meetings with host communities of Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve in order to mitigate poaching, this resulted in the drastic reduction in the number of snare traps that were discovered in the reserve.

October — December 2013

Science Coordinator, Nigerian Montane Forest Project (NMFP), Yelwa, Taraba State, Nigeria

- Pioneer Science Coordinator: planned staff rosters and supervised scientific projects being undertaken within Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve. This has led to an increase in data gathering and publications by scientists affiliated with NMFP
- Developed an effective storage system for plant and animal samples/tissues.

- Analysed data and prepared quarterly reports for distribution to stakeholders. Some of the results which were published in the NMFP annual report 2013, led to increased collaboration with other scientists.

October 2012 — September 2013

Teacher, Zion Baptist High School, Zarazon, Jos-East, Nigeria

- Taught Geography, Physics and Agricultural Science.
- Prepared lesson plans and assisted colleagues and creating teaching aids.

March 2010 — March 2011

Teacher, Oniong-West Community Secondary School, Onna, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria

- Taught Introductory Technology and Mathematics.
- Prepared lesson plans and assisted colleagues and creating teaching aids.
- Established a Millennium Development Goals (MDG) club for students in order inspire them to think globally and act locally.

January — June 2008

Intern, A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), Laminga, Nigeria

- Carried out bird surveys, trapped and marked birds and data generated were added to the long terms bird trapping data in APLORI (20 years). Assisted in questionnaire surveys which contributed into the establishment of a sustainable fuel wood usage program

PUBLICATIONS

- Jaafar, R., **Yadok B. G.**, Elisha, E. & Chapman H. M. (2021). The value of Isolated grassland tree species and the common bulbul (*Pynonotus barbatus*) in re-establishment of Afromontane forest into grassland. Submitted to *Biotropica*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.12986>
- **Yadok B. G.**, Gerhard D., Forget P-M., Aliyu B. & Chapman H. M. (2020). Seed nutrient content rather than seed size influences seed dispersal by scatterhoarding rodents in a West African montane forest. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266467420000127>
- **Yadok B. G.**, Pech R. & Chapman H. M. (2019). Perception of predation risk by African giant pouched rats (*Cricetomys* sp. nov) is higher in forest-edge microhabitats. *Behavioural processes*, 168: 103953
- Charles L, Dwyer J. D., Chapman H. M., **Yadok B. G** & Mayfield M. M. (2019). Landscape structure mediates zoochorous-dispersed seed rain under isolated pasture trees across distinct tropical regions. *Landscape Ecology*, 34 (6): 1347-1362.
- **Yadok B. G.**, Gerhard D., Forget P-M. & Chapman H. M. (2019). Low fruit-crop years of *Carapa oreophila* drive increased seed removal and predation by scatterhoarding rodents in a West African forest. *Acta oecologica*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actao.2019.103448>
- **Yadok B. G.**, Gerhard D., Forget P-M. & Chapman H. M. (2018). Size doesn't matter: Larger *Carapa* seeds are not dispersed farther by African rodent community. *African Journal of Ecology*. 56: 1028-1033.

- **Yadok B. G.**, Barshep Y. & Cresswell W. (2014). The importance of anthropogenic effects in habitat use and territory size of Northern Anteater-chats (*Myecocichla aiethiops*) near Amurum Forest Reserve, Jos-Plateau, Nigeria. *Ostrich* 85: 147-151.
- **Yadok B. G.** & Georgina Mwanasat (2009). Diversity of fig wasps species in *Ficus abutilifolia* and *Ficus thoningii* in Amurum forest reserve, Jos-East, Nigeria. *African journal of Applied Zoology and Environmental Biology*. 11: 93-100

SUBMITTED ARTICLES

- Gnonlonfoun, I., Kassa, B., Azihou, F., **Yadok, B. G.**, Dossou, J., Fandohan, A. B., Assogbadjo, A., Kakaï, R. & Sinsin, B. (2021). Climate change influences foraging behaviour of elephants and food web patterns in a tropical semi-arid fauna reserve in West Africa. Submitted to *Rangeland Ecology and Management*.

MEDIA PRESENCE

- Spotlight appearance on CTFS-ForestGeo blog (2021)
<https://www.forestgeo.si.edu/blog/spotlight-series-biplang-yadok-studies-animal-behavior-ngel-nyaki-nigeria-fdp>.
- University of Canterbury Research Reports (2017) Rats to the rescue in African montane forests
https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/media/documents/research/research-reports/Research_Report_2017.pdf (pages 16 and 17).
- Abengowe E. C., Adeyanju T. E., Akiemien N., Albert M. T., Azi, A. J., Elke F., Nwaogu C. J., Onoja J. D. & **Yadok B. G.** (2011). Amurum forest reserve habitat and avifauna mapping in Nigeria. www.qgis.org/en/community/qgis-case-studies/plateau-state-nigeria.html

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/RECOGNITIONS

2019: Elected as West Africa coordinator of the ATBC Africa Chapter Committee

2018: PhD Study featured in the 2018 annual research reports of the University of Canterbury

2015—2017: T. Y. Danjuma PhD Scholarship (Full)

2015: Carolina MacGillavry award for best collaborative grant proposal, International Foundation of Science (IFS), Team INVAFRICA

2013: Completed Msc program with a Distinction 2013

2011-2013: A. P. Leventis full scholarship for Msc students in Conservation biology in at the University of Jos, Nigeria

REVIEWER EXPERIENCES

2021: Abstract reviewer, Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) Virtual conference.

2020: Scientific article for the *Forest Systems* journal, Spain.

2018: Student research grant application reviewer, Animal Behaviour Society (ABS), USA

2018: Scientific committee member, Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) conference in Kuching, Malaysia

2017: Abstract review committee member, Annual Biology Conference (ABC), University of Canterbury, New Zealand

SELECTED RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

2018: American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), African Graduate Student Research Fund (~1,500 USD)

2017: Animal Behaviour Society (ABS) Developing Nations Award (~ \$2,500 USD)

2016: Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation (~ \$7,000 USD)

2016 and 2014: Ideawild equipment donation (Camera traps; ~ \$1800 USD)

2015: International Foundation of Science (IFS) Research Grant (~ \$12, 000 USD)

REFEREES' DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
