**Pollination ecology of Shea (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) in West Africa**

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*Vitellaria paradoxa* (shea) is a socially and economically valuable tree which is indigenous to the dry savanna belt of West Africa. It and other indigenous tree species provide multiple economic, medicinal, cultural, nutritional and ecological benefits that contribute to rural livelihood and national economies. Shea butter is the most valued product, extracted from the dried seed kernels. However, recently, concerns have been raised regarding shea yields, their dependence on animal pollinators, and habitat degradation which is potentially contributing to pollinator loss. The aim of this project was to assess pollinator dependency in *V. paradoxa*, determine whether trees are currently pollinator limited and to determine which taxa are acting as pollinators. Fieldwork was conducted in four sites in northern Ghana and two sites in southern Burkina Faso. Pollinator exclusion and sweep netting were used to assess dependency and limitation, and to catch flower visitors. Honeybees and stingless bees were the most common flower visitors, and initial analysis suggests that fruit set is both pollinator dependent, and that in some sites, pollen-limited. Future work will examine how landscape context influences pollinator populations and pollination services, with the aim of developing a sustainable habitat management plan with local communities.