

# Distribution and Diversity of Flora and Fauna in the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (UTA) Forest and Nature Reserve, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

The study of the distribution and diversity of flora and fauna in the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture forest and nature trail was aimed at assessing the numbers of plant and animal species and areas where they occur in the study sites. Plant and animal species were enumerated through direct on site field observation during a fifteen month survey of the area to provide data that could enhance the management and sustainable utilization of the reserve ecosystem. Eighty-seven plant species from 39 families were found in the area; 55 species were trees while shrubs and grasses numbered 32 species. The most abundant tree species found in the area were *Elaeis guinensis* (32.4%), *Funtumia elastica* (11.4%), *Newbouldia laevis* (7.6%) and *Lecaniodiscus cupanoides* (4.5%). Two particularly interesting climber species found were *Pararistolochia goldieana* and *Caesalpinia bonduc*. There were also several wild relatives of cultivated yams which grow naturally and serve as genetic pool/resources which can be used to develop

new species of yam or transfer useful genes from wild yam to cultivated yam. Ninety-two species of wild animals from 45 families were also found in the study area. There were 66 species of birds from 28 families, 3 species of reptiles from 3 families and 23 species of mammals from 16 families. A total of 11,632 sightings were recorded. The most abundant animal species found in the area were *Corvus albus* (7.8%), *Viverra civetta* (7.4%), *Cephalophus rufilatus* (7.2%) and *Dendrocygna viduata* (5.4%). The endemic Ibadan malimbe (*Malimbus ibadanensis*) were also sighted in the study area and several other birds which normally wander around the lake.

**Key words:**

Ecology, Distribution, Diversity, Forest, Nature Reserve, IITA.