

## Project Update: December 2011

This update includes information about first phase of the project. In this stage project had three general activities to be performed:

### 1. Purchasing required inventories

I purchased tools and materials for field work such are: containers and sampling bags, stereo microscope and cameras, liquids for specimen fixation and petrol. There was a small inconsistency between budget and real expenses, but insignificant (e.g. I intended to buy 200 containers - each for 0.9 p, while actual price was 0.7p, so I added rest of money to the budget for alcohols). Detailed finance expenses will be reported later, with final report.

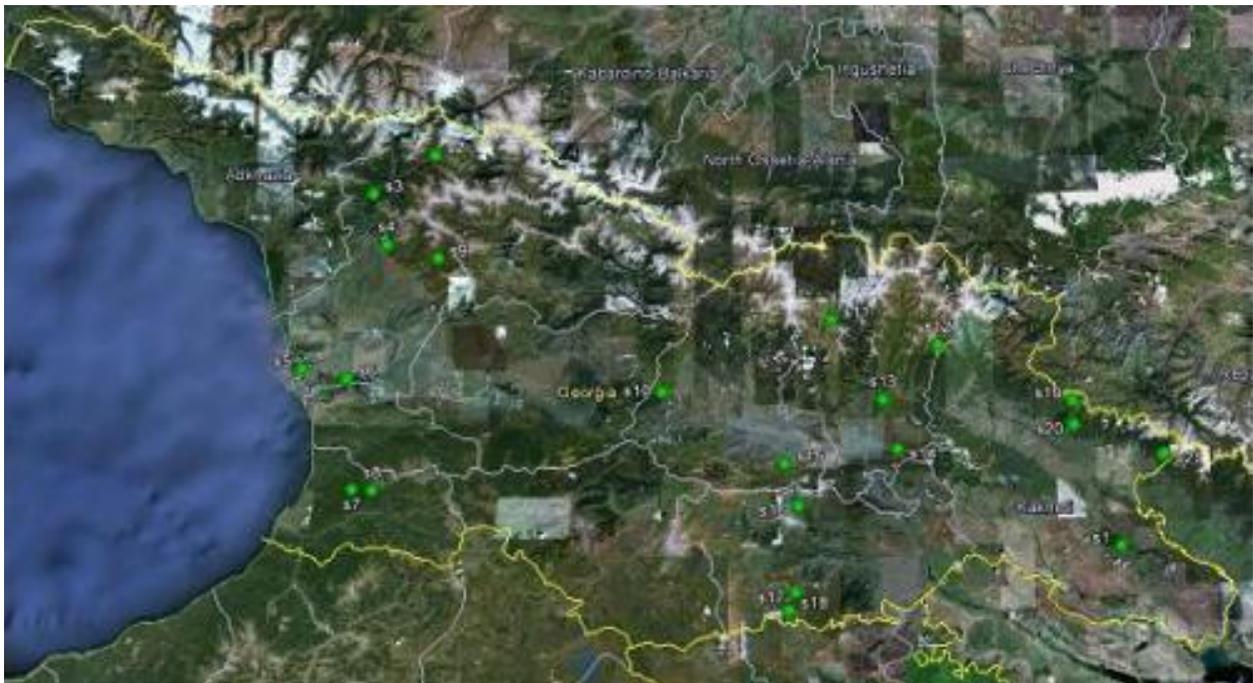
### 2. Collecting and organization of literature concerning to Georgian snail taxonomy and distribution

I have collected all available published data about Georgian snail, which comprise 156 units of scientific paper, books (9) and dissertations (3). Most of them are in Russian language (74), some of them in German, English and Georgian. Majority of those publications are already analyzed and all useful information extracted. Based on this data I carried out field work and nowadays continue work on snail identification in laboratory.

### 3. Conducting field work

After analyzing published data, I identified most reach faunal localities with endemic snails. During the autumn 3 month field work was conducted to recollect and improve existed data. Sampling points are illustrated on the map below. In three regions (Dedoplistskaro, Borjomi and Lagodekhi - points respectively s1, s10, s21) two sampling points are merged on the map. As a whole, 24 forest localities were investigated from the study area. Samples were dried and snails were extracted on the field.

Currently I'm conducting specimen identification and also working with museum collections. Some endemic snails from Georgia:





*Poiretia mingrelica* (point s4, s9)



Left: *Oscarboettgeria euages* (Point s9). Right: *Chondrula sunzhica* (Point S17, s18)



Kalitinaia perspectiva (Point s14)