

Project Update: June 2012

In June 2012, according to my project schedule I with my project assistants arranged a trip to Borjomi district. We visited schools in the Vill. Tsagveri and organised three excursions and three seminars with the pupils. These seminars were concerning the biodiversity of Borjomi district, behaviour and life history of the endemic ant – *Myrmoxenus tamaare* and forests of Georgia. The pupils of the 6th-11th classes, teacher of biology and director of the school were attending these seminars. During the excursions local school pupils were included in the field investigations. We showed them the methods of ant collection, talked about their interesting life history and explained their role in ecosystem and importance as a bio-indicator. The pupils manifested high interest in myrmecology and conservation of biodiversity. Directors, teachers and pupils altogether were very thankful for such a project and the director informed us that they will publish an article about our activity in the local newspaper. We also investigated the habitat of *Myrmoxenus tamarae* in the village of Daba, a collection place of this endemic species and in the next field trips plan to search for other similar places, which gives us the ability to find this species also in the other parts of Georgia.



