

Final Report

Activities in 2005

The species assessment was started with 54 pitfall trap in three different habitats:

- pine forest in the edge of the site (18 trap)
- birch forest in the interior of the site (18 trap)
- in the middle of the peat bog (18 trap)

Pitfall trap samples were collected in every month in 2005:

1. 28th of April
2. 29th of May
3. 30th of Jun
4. 30th of July
5. 29th of August
6. 30th of September

We also used the suction sampling by D-vac for assessing the species within the peat layers. However our samples are under processing, we can conclude that these peat bogs holds a series of rare and endangered species, some of them were not recorded in Romanian fauna until now. Others like the long-leg-daddy spider *Mitopus morio* is a glacial relict, and one extremely rare species in whole Europe, it can be found only in these habitats.

In July 2005 were organized the first peat bog expedition, where 6 scientist (botanist, entomologist) meet for involving and developing a new wetland reserve. For this reason were made a series of measurements like (soil and water pH, microclimate, species distribution, habitat loss, human disturbances, etc.).

Survey and monitoring - to protect the endangered species we need to know the factors that disturb they habitats. Also is very important to have information about the level of population changes that can be measured by monitoring. During the project the staff and the new volunteers checked the whole region for discovering other threatened habitats and species. Our final aims are to involve one unified protected area, and to introduce the whole region in NATURA 2000 Biodiversity Conservation Program, supported by UE.

Public awareness - via media - raising public awareness on high human disturbance in peat bogs in the region- different TV stations (local, national TVs) were present in different meetings. The protection and management plan of the region is under construction, we hope that in this year (2005) will be transmitted to the Ministry of Environment Protection of Romanian Government in Bucharest.

The web page of the region is also under construction www.csomadbalvanyos.ro