

## Project Update: March 2017

The project was completed according to the previous plans: sampling was performed in seven montane sites. 40 mammals, 70 plants were sampled, and thorough habitat descriptions were made in East Kazakh Mountains. We exchanged around 50 herbarium samples with the university in Almaty, and the material was deposited in the herbarium of Debrecen University, Hungary. Two DNA regions' sequences of 12 mammal samples were generated so far, what allowed the discovery of a new mammal species. Of plant samples, the inclusion of the Kazakh endemic *Ferula soongorica* from Katon-Karagay made it possible to trace the phylogenetic position of the IUCN Red List, Hungarian species *Ferula sadleriana*—DNA studies have indicated the closest relationship with this species, and hint at steppic origin of the Hungarian plant. During the expedition, we built contact with researchers from the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, and the Sarsen Amanzholov East Kazakhstan State University in Öskemen. Our group gave a talk in Almaty for graduate students, and we had important meetings and discussions with the experts of the Katon-Karagay National Park Directorate, and the Markakol Reserve.



Left: *Sicista pseudo napaea*, Katon Karagay. Right: Fieldwork in the Altai.



Top left: Fieldwork in the Altai. Top right: Presentation in the University of Almaty. Bottom left: Meeting in the Markakol Reserve. Bottom right: Meeting in the Katon Karagay Nat Park HQ.