

Project Update: July 2017

During last week of July a large expedition in Nyrkiv (Podolian Upland, Western Ukraine) was carried. Together with PhD student Zoia Shvydka (who also works on the land snails) we have taken 8 students-biologists of Kiev University, therefore additional major outcome of this trip was educational. Main goal of this expedition was to found populations of *Helicopsis instabilis* that were known for this area since 19 century. We have also collected large data on the patterns of molluscs' distribution among different habitats in area, first of all dry grasslands, and have found several notable species, later this data will be published in separate paper.

As a part of my work on the next edition of Red Book of Ukraine in the Institute of Zoology an individual research theme was opened for me on the second half of 2017 and whole 2018 entitled "Terrestrial molluscs in Red Book of Ukraine: state of populations and question of adding new species". The next edition of Red Book of Ukraine should be published in 2019, so this work should be done before that.

One scientific paper in English was published by the results of my first RSG (journal is in Scopus):

- Balashov I., Yarotskaya M., Filatova J., Starichenko I., Kovalov V. Terrestrial molluscs of the Tsyrypyat area in Volyn (Northern Ukraine): the first findings of the threatened snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* in mainland Ukraine // Vestnik Zoologii. – 2017. – 51 (3). – P. 251–258.



With students during expedition in Nyrkiv



Searching the snails near Nyrkiv



Slug *Limax cinereoniger* on the hand of student near Nyrkiv (slug is not threatened, it is in educational and scientific context, we have left him there alive)