

## Project Update: June 2017

First of all, I'm glad to report that starting from the 2017 I was included into the Mollusc Specialist Group of IUCN Species Survival Commission, where I'm an only representative of Ukraine and there are also no members from adjacent Moldova, Belarus and European part of Russia. So now I'm involved into the work on the IUCN Red Lists, same as on national Red Book in Ukraine. This is clearly become possible only thanks to the projects that I have carried under the support of the Rufford Foundation.

I have also received a scholarship from DAAD for 3-month visiting Hamburg University in Germany during September-December 2017 to proceed materials on *Helicopsis* snails that were collected during my two Rufford projects and adjust their taxonomical and conservation status (one of the questions to my current project was on the receiving funding for this visit). So just after finishing a final report of my current Rufford project I will go to Germany and will proceed these materials in the lab.

From April-June 2017 the eight expeditions proceeded, mainly in the notable locations of the *Helicopsis* species in southern Ukraine - few minor ones also in eastern and western Ukraine. Besides important materials on *Helicopsis*, a lot of new data on the other rare species and their habitats was collected, which will be used in number of following publications.

I have published a paper in journal of Mollusc Specialist Group of IUCN SSC to correct conservation statuses of the Crimean endemic land snails in IUCN Red List:  
- Balashov I. 2017. On the Crimean endemic terrestrial molluscs in the IUCN Red List // Tentacle, 25: 22-25.

My team, with our botanist as first author, has published two papers in the materials of local Ukrainian conferences on nature conservation to promote creation of 11 protected areas in the steppes of Central Ukraine by the results of our last year Rufford expeditions:

- Shyriaieva D., Vasyliuk O., Balashov I., Bezsmertna O., Babytskij A. 2017. Propositions on the creation of the steppe protected areas of local importance on the territory of Cherkasy region // Reserve management in the steppe zone of Ukraine. Vol. 1. – P. 292-297. [in Ukrainian]

- Shyriaieva D., Kuzemko A., Marushchak O., Balashov I. 2017. The valley of Ros' River as a perspective object for the Emerald network // NATURA 2000 network as an innovative system of the rare species and habitats conservation in Ukraine. – P. 234-238. [in Ukrainian]



Left: Team in the steppes of Elanets district, Southern Ukraine. Right: In the Crimean Mountains with Dr. Sergey Leonov.



Left: Searching for the snails. Right: *Helicopsis* snail from Black Sea Lowland.