

Project Update: March 2018

The first phase of project implementation is underway. Comprehensive and systematic mycological field research in the Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean parts of the country have been organised in the last 2 months (three field trips and forays).

Generally, the winter period is the peak season for fungi/ascomycetes fructification in the Mediterranean area. This area represents bio climate with quite well differentiated ecological characteristics.

Continental part of the country and lowlands in the northern part are still heavily influenced by winter time and preliminary field research in this area will probably be organised in April and May 2018.

Mycological field research in February and March 2018 was quite successful. A very solid number of ascomycetes was recorded in the marine area around city of Neum, 205 km south west of Sarajevo (shrub lands – maquis with domination of *Q. ilex* and *J. oxcedrus*, open habitats with disturbed soil and high diversity of mosses, a small reservoirs and minute watercourses of fresh water, old man-made forest of *Cupressus sempervirens*).

Neum/Klek bay area is very important for the biodiversity and mycobiota of Bosnia and Herzegovina because it has status of protected area – a Special Botanical Reserve from 1965. This relative small territory is the only area with typical Mediterranean vegetation as well.

In total 27 different species of fungi have been recorded (24 species of ascomycetes, 18 species from the order Pezizales). Almost 50% of the species represents new species for the mycobiota of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Significant contribution to the knowledge of bryoparasitic/bryophilic Pezizales have been achieved too. A decent number of species from the bryophilic genera *Octospora* and *Lamprospora* have been found and we have already started to prepare a new scientific, taxonomical article about this group of fungi.

An information and educative trifold brochure was printed last month. It will be distributed to the relevant stakeholders in order to promote importance of some protected or potentially protected areas and to emphasise significance of declaration of Important Fungal Areas accordingly.

First shots of documentary movie about importance of fungi and protected areas have been filmed as well. This was done in cooperation with public broadcasting service in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Intro scene have been filmed indoor. After winter comes to the end we will continue to make documentary in the forests and at other interesting and important locations.

As stated in the project budget, a new equipment was purchased (Microscope – Olympus BH2 and Canon Macro Ring Lite MR-14EX II) and it has already been used in the field and in the laboratory.



Macro-photos of some species of ascomycetous fungi recorded in the first phase of the project implementation (field research organized in the Mediterranean part of the country).



Left: Scenery from the field research (Neum-Klek area). ©Smiljan Tomić. Right: Search for bryoparasitic Pezizales. ©Nedim Jukić.



Donadinia lusitanica, a typical representative of Mediterranean mycobiota. ©Nedim Jukić.