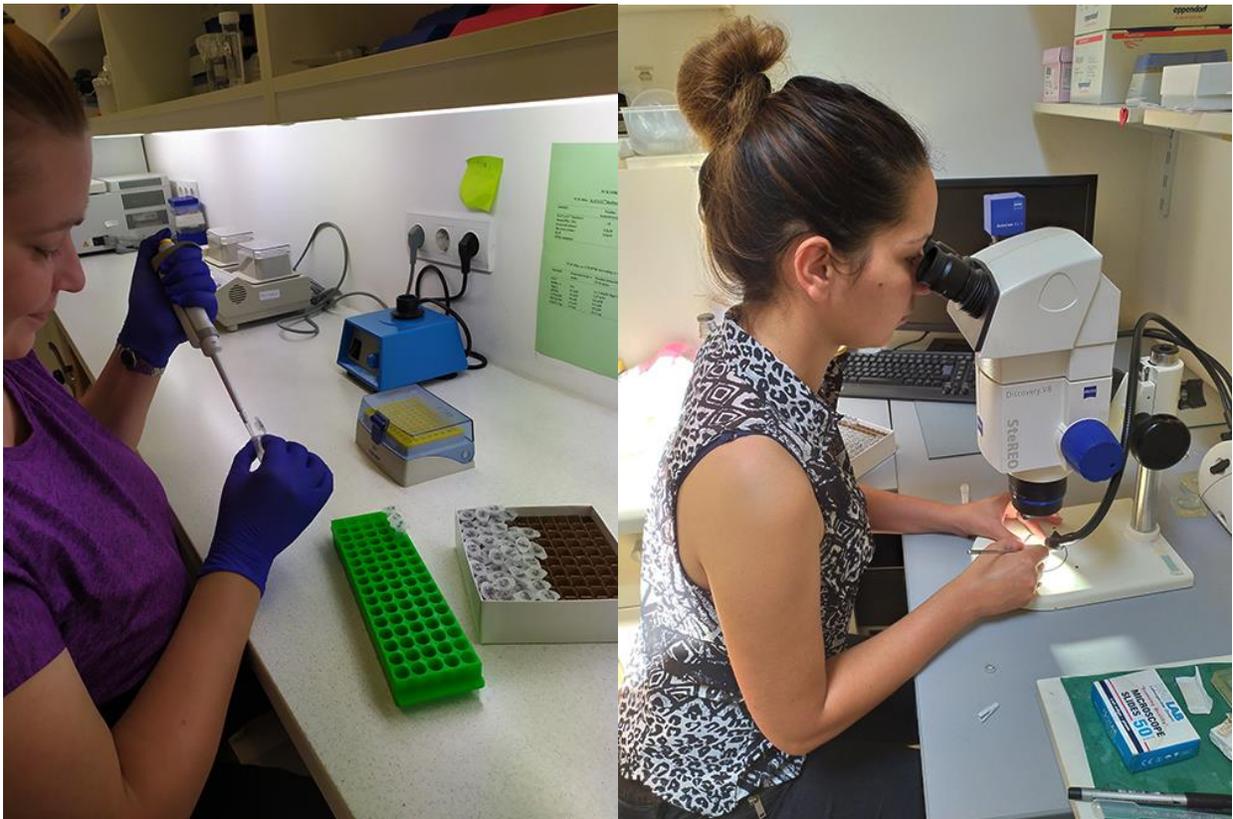


## Project Update: June 2019

During the past period we worked intensively on aphid and parasitoid identification. Aphid species that parasitise coniferous trees, especially from genus *Cinara* are very hard to identify to species level, so we are waiting results from an aphid expert. Unfortunately, aphid samples contained mostly aphid mummies, since live aphids parasitising conifers are hard to find. Furthermore, we encountered a problem during the identification of currently collected parasitoid material; the key to the genus *Pauesia* (which is most abundant in our samples) doesn't exist. Only a small number of common species is present in keys related to a certain plant or region worldwide.

Thus, we decided to sequence barcoding region of cytochrome oxidase subunit I and made microscopic slides of all specimens, in order to get a clearer picture of our collected material. At the end of investigation, we will make a key to parasitoids attacking conifer aphids from Serbia.

Our plans for this period include visiting several more locations: our aim is to sample material which we failed to collect last year, i.e. species from *Pinus mugo* and *Picea omorika*. Furthermore, we will present our work and influence of Rufford Foundation on young scientists in September on the Symposium of Entomologists of Serbia.



Left: Preparing the samples for extraction. Right: Studying the samples under stereomicroscope.