

Project Update: May 2018

We had our first field trip to Pčinja valley region from the 4th - 10th May 2018. Team of five members, consisted of Aleksandar Urošević, Marko Anđelković, two students of the 4th year of Faculty of Biology in Belgrade and myself, spent 7 days in the Pčinja Valley region.



From 4th - 6th May we were on the locality near Monastery of Saint Prohor Pčinjski and then we went Trgovište and worked there until 10th May.



We caught 116 lizards from three species (*Podarcis erhardii*, *P. tauricus* and *P. muralis*), took the data and all the samples we needed from them and then returned them unharmed to the places we have caught them.



We have noticed and documented habitat disturbances on both localities and will be paying attention on the development of the situation regarding them.

Along with three mentioned lizard species in our herpetological diversity explorations of the two localities have spotted *Testudo hermannii*, *Vipera ammodytes*, *Zamenis longissimus*, *Dolichophis caspius*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Ablepharus kitaibelli* and *Platyceps najadum*. On the locality near Trgovište *Platyceps najadum* has never been found before, so that is a completely new and very valuable faunistic data for Serbia.



Next field trip is planned on 21st May 2018.

T-shirt design is done and 140 T-shirts and 11 sweatshirts have been printed. I have added the sweatshirts because of the morning temperatures on our localities which can be pretty low so long-sleeved shirts were needed.





I have opened Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts and I am in the process of writing the text for the brochures.

In Trgovište we have established connections with local municipality and elementary school and we are preparing an educational lecture about the reptiles that live there, their important role in the ecosystem and why their habitats should be preserved.

Many residents of Trgovište have shown extreme interest in the reptile species that live there and are eager to find out more.