

Project Update: September 2018

On 10th September 2018 we returned from the fourth field trip to Pčinja river valley which was 7 days long.

The team consisted of Aleksandar Urošević, Marko Anđelković, PhD student Tijana Vučić, MSc student Neda Bogdanović and myself. We spent 2 days at the Monastery of Prohor Pčinjski locality and five days at River Crnovska Reka Gorge near Trgovište.

Lizard activity was lower than on the previous visits, which was expected, due to the ending of the activity season. We have gathered data from 50 newly found lizards and we have recaptured many of already analysed ones. At this moment on both locations the activity of adult lizards is low, while the juvenile ones, that we did not pursue, just noted, is rather high as they have eat enough to adequately prepare for the hibernation.

We have further investigated fauna biodiversity on both locations finding both young and adults of *Rana graeca* frog.

In cooperation with Miloš Đorđević, from Trgovište municipality and principal of the Elementary school "Branko Radičević" on 7th September 2018 we gave the lecture on importance of habitat and biodiversity protection in Trgovište elementary school. The lecture was adapted to the age of the pupils and we handed them the promotional material and hung posters on the visible spots. We organised a small quiz with them, in which we handed a t-shirt or a notebook for the correct answer about the Pčinja river valley biodiversity and ways to protect habitats and herpetofauna. Both pupils and teachers showed great interest on the subject.

We did not succeed in the making the official meeting with the people in Protected Landscape Dolina Pčinje organisation because of the current problems within the Orthodox church in Vranje municipality which is responsible for the Protected Landscape Dolina Pčinje. We will once again try to make an official meeting with them when the problems pass.

We will start data analysis soon and intensify the presence in social media.

I have attached some of the photos our team made from the lecture we gave, field work and the photograph of *Rana graeca* from Monastery of Prohor Pčinjski locality by Marko Anđelković.





Lecture at Trgoviste.



Field work.



Rana graeca from Monastery of Prohor Pčinjski locality. ©Marko Anđelković.