

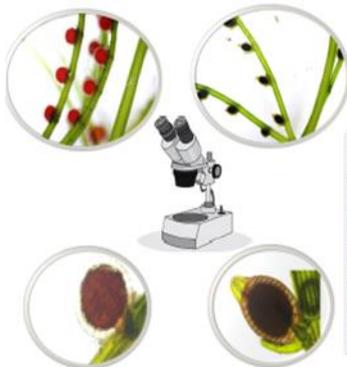
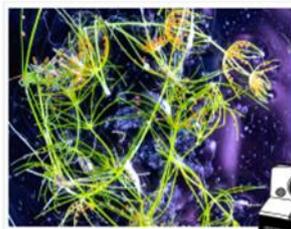
Project Update: April 2019

Our first field session in 2019 for the project Guardians of the Fragile Equilibrium in the Shallow Ecosystems of a Ramsar Sites in Serbia: Stoneworts Diversity and Distribution has already started, since we are having very warm weather for this time of year. Unfortunately, we also had dry winter, and still is quite dry, so we hope for the rain to come and fill shallow ponds with water and provide habitat for our stoneworts. More on the results of the first field session in the next update.

This update we dedicated to our promotional activities. We visited elementary school „Drinka Pavlović“ in Belgrade, on science fair day. We had very successful promotion, a lot of interested kids were curious to hear about our special algae, guardians of the shallow ecosystems and biodiversity in protected areas. We made a lot of new friends and followers of our project, and most important of all we contributed to the raising awareness among school children in what stoneworts are, how they provide ecosystem services in shallow ecosystems and that is ultimately important to protect them and their habitats. We enjoyed making progress in our awareness raising programme, which introduced school children with stoneworts – our children are the ones who inherit this environment from us and the ones who should protect it for the next generations, thus teaching them to do so, so that they can be more successful than us was more than an inspirational experience. Also, we made progress in stimulating our students at the Faculty of Biology to get more involved with environmental studies and conservation, we have a Master student this year – Vanja, she is involved in charophyta investigations, also being the new member of our Rufford crew. Vanja's Master thesis will be a part of our Rufford project. For promotional purposes we printed t-shirts and made posters, still we have plans to print leaflets and other promotional material, so that we can spread our message in the most successful manner.

We have a reason to be proud, the first publication supported by Rufford Small Grant for realisation of the project „Guardians of the Fragile Equilibrium in Shallow Ecosystems of Ramsar Sites in Serbia: Stonewort Diversity and Distribution“ is officially available online:

http://botanicaserbica.bio.bg.ac.rs/arhiva/pdf/2019_43_1_740_full.pdf. We have few more publications in preparation, thanks to valuable results we obtained in previous year. Hopefully, this year will bring us more imperative findings and encourage us to continue with dedicated work in field and achieving the long-term goals of our project.



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ČUVARI KRHKE RAVNOTEŽE
U PLITKIM STANIŠTIMA RAMSARSKIH PODRUČJA U SRBIJI:
DIVERZITET I DISTRIBUCIJA PRŠLJENČICA



Labudovo okno



Gornje Podunavlje



Zasavica









