Project Update: August 2019

Beginning of our fieldwork didn't start well, because of extremely low temperatures and continuous rain in Serbia throughout the whole of May and the first part of June. Saline grasslands were covered by water and mud, so heavy machinery (grass cutting tractor for the mowing experiment) couldn't enter it, otherwise, would ruin a delicate habitat. When weather stabilised and soil was firm enough to support tractor, important short-living spring species already disappeared from the communities. The spring true bugs are the most diverse and abundant, so we particularly want to see the effect of grass cutting on spring communities. However, it was unexpected that spring 2019 will be one of the coldest and the rainiest in Serbia in the past few decades.

Saline pasture near Mali Pesak, the habitat of Chlamydatus saltitans.

Under these circumstances, the team decided to wait for the next season to start mowing experiment. In 2019 fieldwork will be focused only on rapid assessment part of the project and in 2020 we will dedicate our field activities to mowing experiment. The total number of days spent in the field will be 70 like we planned and mentioned in the project proposal.

In June 2019, we hurry to catch up with the timetable. We visited around 30 grasslands in Vojvodina mostly in the Bačka region, and 21 of those had suitable vegetation and true

bug saline specialists present there. We found a lot of new locations for *Solenoxyphus fuscovenosus*, this autumnal species has already shown up in July. We also recorded new species for Serbian fauna, a small Mirid species *Chlamydatus saltitans*. Three specimens were caught in a saline pasture near Mali Pesak Village.

Antheminia lunulata, a species often associated with saline grasslands.