

Project Update: November 2020

Project activities officially started on June 28, 2020, shortly after the arrival of the funds. Since the situation with the COVID 19 virus led to the postponement of the project activities, we immediately started with field research of key species: *Lycaena helle*, *Boloria eunomia* and *Erebia orientalis*. We covered a large part of the predetermined localities for the given species and confirmed that the wildfires on Stara Planina affected their populations to a greater or lesser extent. The greatest impact of wildfires was noticed on a part of *Lycaena helle* population, whose habitats in Serbia are located only on Stara Planina mountain along the border with Bulgaria. In this regard, and as the project will include the summer season next year (due to the postponement because of the pandemic), an additional field research of the remaining *Lycaena helle* localities is planned in order to create good content that will be sent to protected area managers. Next year's fieldwork includes research of the remaining sites not only of this species, but also of the other two key species mentioned above. Another interesting fact is that during field research on the Stara Planina we came across a new population of the species *Parnassius apollo* at 1500-1600 m asl, which is extremely rare in that part of the country.

Due to COVID 19 virus pandemics, two of the three planned camps had to be postponed for next year, while one camp at "Crni vrh" was organised in August 2020. Volunteers were divided into three groups, with each group consisting of four volunteers and one coordinator with whom they visited different sites every day and entered data into the Biologer database. The camp went even better than we expected, a confirmation of that is the fact that 1070 findings of diurnal butterflies were recorded in only 5 camp days. Further plans for this year are: to create a website, quiz, print additional promotional material and present our project at the universities in Serbia (depending on the situation with the pandemic), while for the next year it is planned to conduct additional field research of key species, to organise camps "Jerma" and "Temska" and to collect data on the distribution of *Zerynthia cerisy* and *Zerynthia polyxena* species.



Printing of t-shirts with the logo of the Rufford Foundation (Design by Dimitrija Savić-Zdravković) and the Biological Society "Dr Sava Petrović" was organised, necessary

equipment for field research was purchased and a team meeting, where team members were further informed about the project plan was organized.



Biološko društvo
dr Sava Petrović

