

Project Update: June 2021

In the period from the end of April to the second half of May 2021, we used to focus on species from the genus *Zerynthia*, i.e. *Zerynthia cerisyi* and *Zerynthia polyxena*. During that period, we checked the presence of these species in the Nature Park "Stara Planina" within the UTM field (area 10 x 10 km) where the species have not been previously recorded, in order to determine whether they expand their range and to what extent. UTM fields were selected with the help of the Biologer database and Google Earth programme, through which three sites were selected within each UTM square in order to check the presence of these species. The selected sites were: inhabited place, arable land and locality near the water surface.

The second and most important part are the project key species, *Lycaena helle*, *Boloria eunomia* and *Erebia orientalis*. As the end of May and the first half of June are the period during which these species are most active, we used that time to explore all the remaining sites of these species that are not checked during 2020 due to the later start of the project. Also, we revisited the localities Vražja glava and Tri čuke, where half of the population of *Lycaena helle* in Serbia was located, and based on our research last and this year, the species is no longer present at the mentioned sites. The fires at these sites particularly affected not only this but also many other species of both butterflies and the plants themselves (see Pictures 1.1 and 1.2).

Finally, the creation of the quiz in collaboration with Biologer database managers is almost complete. The quiz consists of three sets of questions, a set of 10, 25 and 50 questions, as well as three difficulty levels: easy, medium and hard. All photos used to create the quiz are in fact photos taken by the users of the database themselves, so the source or author of the photo is added to each image of the species in the quiz. It remains to eliminate a few minor shortcomings and the quiz will be available by the end of June on the website and Facebook group of the Biological Society "Dr Sava Petrović" and on the website of the Biologer database, and the promotion will be done through this and other social networks.



Picture 1.1. Photo by: Milan Ilić



Picture 1.2. Photo by: Milan Ilić