

Project Update: May 2022

From October 2021 to May 2022, we did a plenty of laboratory work on plant material identification and sediment diaspore bank processing in terms of seeds and oospore identification/categorisation (with detailed photography and measurements). Collected plant material identification resulted in eight species detected, of which two are detected for the first time in the survey area. In comparison to the plant diversity, diaspore bank revealed at least three more species. Viability tests are to take place by the end of May 2022 and will be reported in the next update.

As mentioned in the previous report, sediments were left to dry in adequate conditions. After the completion of this process, they were sifted through sieves of different aperture diameters and packed in bags that have been adequately marked beforehand. Using tweezers, oospores / gyrogonites were separated into Eppendorf tubes. Two-thirds of the sampling sites have been processed in terms of oospore/gyrogonite extraction, which is fairly good bearing in mind that oospore/gyrogonite extraction is extremely slow and strenuous task. The rest will be processed during 2022 and reported in the next update. However, some noteworthy results were already obtained, showing that sediment collection may be used to gain a more accurate picture of charophyte diversity in selected sites. This is especially important in case of non-existing continuous monitoring, which is the case with our localities. These results will be presented in late June 2022 at the 14th symposium on the flora of southeastern Serbia and neighboring regions in Kladovo, where the project, as well as Rufford Foundation, will also be promoted.

In total, 12 localities and 47 sampling sites were processed in terms of identification of charophyte individuals.

Preparatory work has been done for the coming season, localities where waterbodies used to exist, but currently are vanished has been selected based on the review of the historical maps and old findings.

During the second year of our project, we also plan a combination of field and laboratory work along with the project promotion and final presentation in 2023.

Activities and timescale for period June 2022 – October 2022:

- June 2022 – field, 7 days
- July 2022– field, 7 days
- August – September 2022– field, 7 days.

The lab 2021/22

Plant processing and identification



Sediment processing and diaspore bank analyses







100 μm



100 μm



100 μm

