

Project update: March 2025

Title of the project: "Monitoring of Threatened Saproxilic Beetles Species in Serbia with public participation"

Project ID: 43255-1

Project leader: Sanja Banjanac

The project activities began in September 2024. First, the project team gathered to organize the work plan in detail. On the first day, there was a meeting between the project team members and the board of directors of the NGO Habiprot, while on the second day, the wider membership of NGO Habiprot joined. We contacted the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the managers of protected areas to obtain permits for the fieldwork. By the end of 2024, the project logo was created, and promotional materials (t-shirts, brochures) with the project logo and the Rufford Foundation logo were produced. We also started promoting the project on social media.

The first field activities began in November 2024, with research on the species *Cucujus cinnaberinus*, one of the 6 target species of the project. We visited the following locations: Natural monument "Obrenovački zabran", Nature Park "Tikvara", Special Nature Reserve "Karađorđevo", Special Nature Reserve "Gornje Podunavlje", and Special Nature Reserve "Ritovi donjeg Potisja". Due to weather conditions, more intensive field research started at the end of December 2024.

In addition to the research in protected areas, a certain amount of data on the presence of *Cucujus cinnaberinus* was collected outside the planned reserves. The total number of findings by the project team and volunteers amounts to 155 since the beginning of the project activities. This has increased the previous findings by as much as 98%. The number of new UTM 10x10 km grid squares where this saproxilic insect has been recorded is 37. During the data collection on this target species, two findings of *Morimus funereus* (dead specimens) were also recorded, one near the Velika Morava and the other in Novi Sad. These are the first findings for these areas and among the few lowland records in Serbia.

According to the project plan, lectures for students in Novi Sad and Belgrade were scheduled for January and February. Due to the current political situation in the country, the lectures have been postponed until further notice, i.e., until the student protests end and activities at the universities resume.

The project activities related to the species *Cucujus cinnaberinus* will continue until April, after which research on the remaining 5 species of the project will follow.



Photo 1. Part of the project team members and members of the NGO Habiprot



Photo 2. Part of the project team members and members of the NGO Habiprot



3. Promotional materials (t-shirts, brochures)



Photo 4. *Cucujus cinnaberinus* - larva



Photo 5. *Cucujus cinnaberinus* – adult

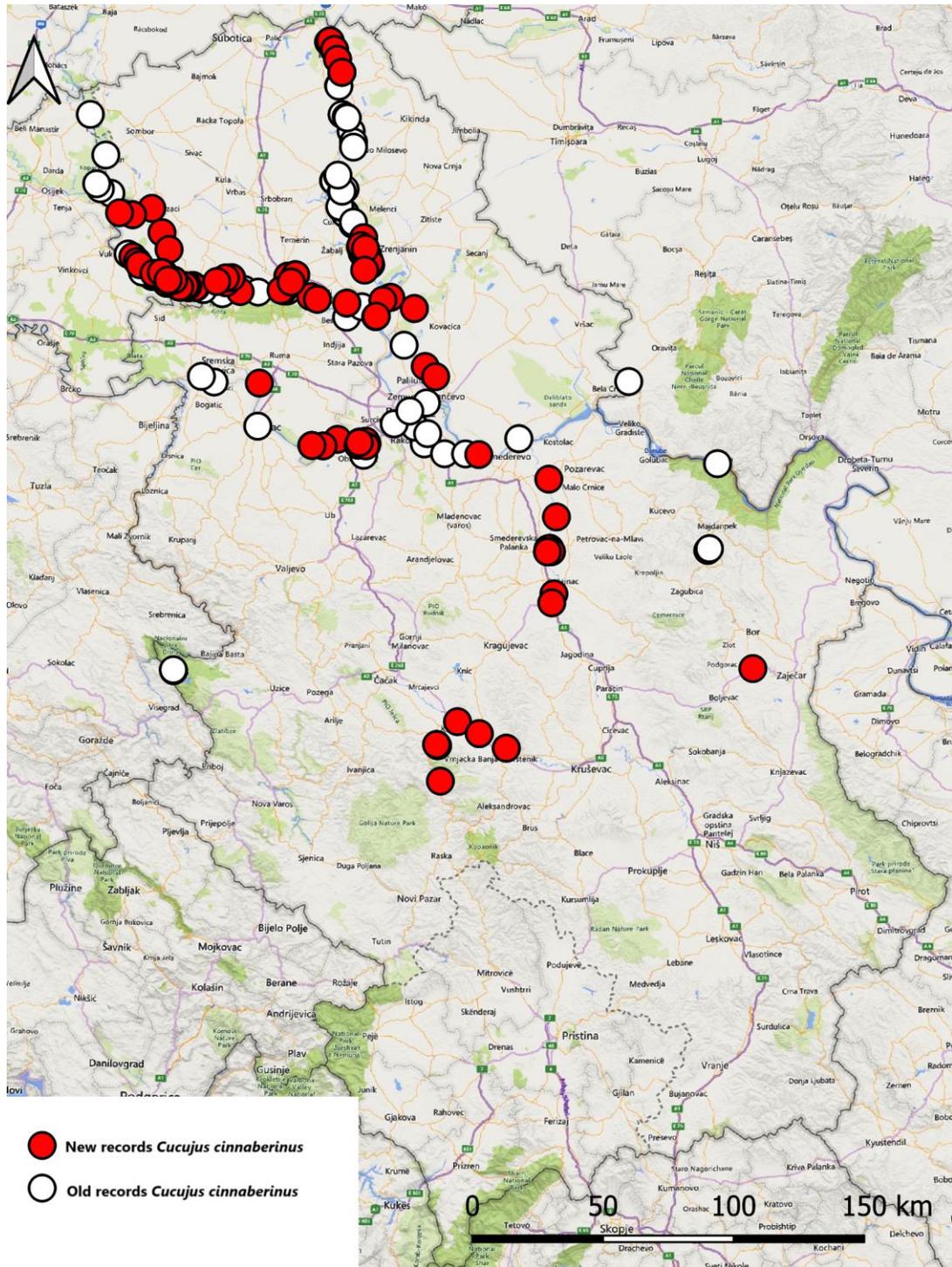


Photo 6. New records of the *Cucujus cinnaberinus*



Photo 7. Field research – River Velika Morava



Photo 8. Field research – River Zapadna Morava



Photo 9. Field research - River Tisa



Photo 10. Field research - Natural monument "Obrenovački zabran"



Photo 11. Habitat of *Cucujus cinnaberinus* in the Special Nature Reserve “Ritovi donjeg Potisja”



Photo 12. Field research - Nature Park "Tikvara"



Photo 13. Field research - River Ibar



Photo 14. Adult of the *Cucujus cinnaberinus* - Novi Sad