

Project Update: September 2013

Between 19th – 24th September 2013, we were studying the rare birch species *Betula megrelica* in the Samegrelo district of Georgia. We camped for 2 nights on Mt. Migaria, spending 3 days there finding and studying populations of this shrub birch. We collected seed for study and germination. We also collected current and previous seasons shoot samples for molecular analysis in the UK.

Weather was good at this time but deteriorated to torrential rain and very poor visibility and local rock fall.

We then moved to Sashkevuli, another mountain range nearby. Here we camped for 1 night. 2 days of searching for the birch produced no results, as we could not find any of the niche habitat this species requires.

Next stage is molecular analysis of shoot samples.

