

Project Update: June 2015

After a longer cold, rainy period, sunshine finally lured reptiles out of their burrows. Turtles waddled out to sunny places and basked for hours. We were just at the right place to see them. During this field trip we found nine novel UTM (10 x 10 km) squares for distribution of European pond turtle in Serbia. One of the visited populations seemed very dense, thus 15 animals was marked at this locality, as a start of long-term population study. We also collected DNA samples from two geographically remote localities, valuable addition for our DNA sample database. At some of the visited sites we couldn't find any individuals, although habitats seemed promising, thus further research at these places could be beneficial.

We also have very valuable help from volunteers who send coordinates and pictures from all over Serbia. We are very grateful for their efforts.



Photo 1. European pond turtles in a funnel trap, right before releasing.



Photo 2. Basking under duckweed.