

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Slobodan Ivković
Project title	Taxonomic and faunistic study of Orthoptera on the Vršac Mountains
RSG reference	17116-2
Reporting period	July 2015-July 2016
Amount of grant	£3755
Your email address	marko.idvor@yahoo.com
Date of this report	21.10.2016.

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Collecting data about distribution of Orthoptera on Vršac Mountains.		+		This objective is marked as partially achieved, as there are probably still some species which we didn't find and they are present in this part. One of them is <i>Paracaloptenus caloptenoides</i> , species which is listed in Annex, and for which we had information that is found on Vršac Mts., but we didn't succeed to find it. Altogether, we have found 53 species. Many of them were detected for the first time in this part of Serbia, which only shows how many valuable data this project has brought. Also, all results were very valuable as part of distribution maps for IUCN Orthoptera mapping.
People involvement			+	Local people were very pleasant and wanted to help in observing localities. They showed us habitats which were interesting for insects (mainly Orthoptera).
Presentation of the results			+	Presentation of the results was performed through oral presentations and most important as poster presentation. Poster presentation was presented on the First European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation, which was held in Trier. Results from both Rufford projects were used as part of distribution maps for Serbia in IUCN meeting in Sofia.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Only unforeseen difficulty was that some parts of investigated areas were private property, so we couldn't access there.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

Creating a checklist of Orthoptera fauna of Vršac Mts. – this checklist will be very usable in future conservation plans for Vršac Mts. and wider area, as there is lack of papers about invertebrate fauna in Serbia.

Finding an *Odontopodisma* sp. – specimens which we found probably belongs to the *Odontopodisma montana*, which represents new species for Serbian fauna, known only from two countries in Eastern Europe. For exact determination, we will visit Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest to compare our specimens with type material which are deposited there.

Presentation of results on First European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation and involving our findings in IUCN Red List species mapping.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

During our field research we cooperated mainly with shepherds. As they spend most of the year in field, we could get the exact instructions where to find preserved habitats. Also, same help we get from people who live in villages at the foothills of the mountain.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, in future we will continue researches on Vršac Mts. and try to mark all localities where *P. transsylvanica* is present. During our project, we visited and surrounding area around Vršac Mts., where we have found a lot of interesting species and suitable steppe habitats for some species which are rare and endangered.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Part of results are already shared as poster presentation on First European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation in Trier. Paper about Orthoptera fauna on Vršac Mts. is in preparation, so we hope that it will be finished and published at the end of this year. After publication, all data will be updated on Orthoptera Species File webpage.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

RSG was used from July 2015 till July 2016.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Fuel cost for fieldwork	1500	1200	+300	We have transferred resources to the presentation work, as during the writing of proposal we didn't know for Congress in Trier.
Fuel cost for presentation work	400	700	-300	-
Salary for 3 students	450	450	0	-
Accommodation	320	320	0	-
Food costs	280	280	0	-
Laptop	310	310	0	
Projector (for presentations)	330	330	0	-
Entomological pins	20	20	0	-
Preparation set	25	25	0	
Field loop	40	40	0	

96% ethanol	20	20	0	-
Equipment for pitfall traps	20	20	0	-
Falcon tubes	40	40	0	-
TOTAL	3755	3755	3755	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

From the first Rufford project until now we have discovered 15 new species for Serbian fauna. This only shows that our research is successful, but that more research is necessary.

Faunistic researches are important, but in addition, we have to collect information about species ecology and behaviour, which was not case in previous papers about Orthoptera in Serbia.

Song recordings are also very important part of Orthoptera researches, we have succeeded to record almost a half species which occurs in Serbia (mostly very rare species), but in future field trips we will continue to record songs from species which we found.

Education of students and people who are interesting in this insect group is also important. Lack of literature on native language is probably one of the reasons. So, our next step would be to make handbook about Orthoptera in our country, with text about species ecology, distribution, songs and with colour photos of each species on Serbian and English, as a lot of people on Congress in Trier were interested is there any book about Orthoptera in our country.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, I did. Besides using RSGF logo in Serbia, where this foundation became much known, it was very important that we used logo on poster where people from other countries could see it.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express gratitude to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for supporting this kind of research. After first Rufford project people from other countries saw that there are entomologists in our country who are studying Orthoptera. Now, I am member of IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group and other organisations who are working mainly on Orthoptera studying. I will continue to study and to promote Orthoptera from Serbia, as one of the main problems in our country is lack of knowledge about invertebrate fauna.

