

Project Update: March 2016

We began field research in December 2015. Firstly, it was necessary to procure the equipment and consumables. Additional time was required for the purchase of chemical reagents because they are imported from abroad. All necessary chemicals we get in January 2016. Before that, we have done a pilot survey in December 2015, without determining chemical parameters in order to explore the selected localities and to establish representative sample size.

In the meantime, we held an informative lecture about our project for students at the Faculty of Science and mathematics in Niš with the aim to attract volunteers. In January 2016, 11 volunteers from the Biological Society "Dr. Sava Petrović" joined us in field research. On the field trip, which was organised in collaboration with the Biological Society volunteers were able to learn about the salt marshes in the southeastern part of the country and methods of sampling macroinvertebrates.

Also, we have opened a web site for promotion which can be found at:

<http://saltmarshes.bddsp.org.rs/>

By investigation of macrozoobenthos we have found that salt marshes are inhabited by representatives of nine orders: Gastropoda, Plecoptera, Trichoptera, Ephemeroptera, Heteroptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Amphipoda, Odonata and Colembolla. All of them were found at salt marshes at southeastern part of the country, while northern salt marshes are inhabited by representatives of four orders. Diptera is the most diverse group dominated by species of the family Chironomidae. Considering that Oblačina salt marsh has a high concentration of sulfate and chloride, but still has representatives of eight lines, we can claim that the salt marshes are habitats that deserve attention.

In the attachment I am sending you some photos from our fieldwork. The fifth photo represents field trip in which we have involved volunteers. The last two are from informative lecture. All photos are captured by Nikola Nikolić, except the last three that are captured by Marko Nikolić, president of Biological Society.



