

Project Update: July 2016

We completed two field trips that were planned for July 2016. First one was on Tara, and second on Golija mountains.

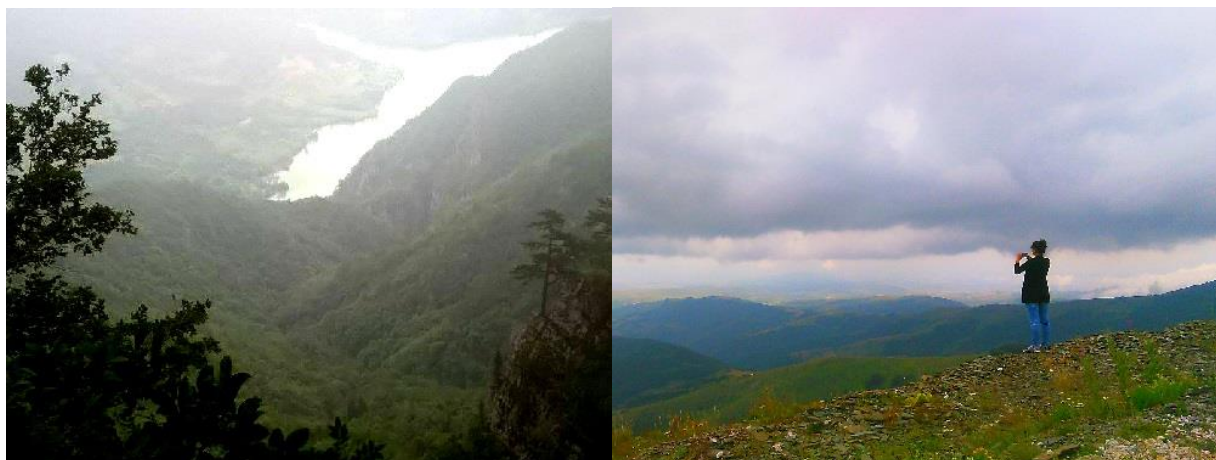
Apart from being a tourist site, Tara has its national park with still well preserved and rare endemic plant and animal species. High altitude vegetation on Tara is mainly consisted out of pine, fir and spruce forests, although around lakes the dominant species are poplars and willows.

Our next sampling site was on mountain Golija that belongs to the Golija-Studenica Biosphere Reserve, the first UNESCO registrated biosphere in Serbia. Golija's plants account for 25% of Serbia's flora. High altitudes on Golija have very specific vegetation composition, with wide and open meadows surrounded by spruce and pine forests, and with dominant shrub species being *Juniperus communis*.

We collected samples from both, tourist sites and places that are not influenced by human presence.

Samples of plants infested with aphids will be left for 14 days in monitored temperature and humidity, so that parasitoids would have time to develop and emerge.

Also, we presented our project and its main goal to the local communities and National park authorities. They were very interested and ready for cooperation in order to preserve these unique mountain habitats.





Left to right, top to bottom: View from Tara; View from Golija; Tara dense forests; Meadows on Golija; Cold weather on Golija; Searching for aphids; Aphids on *Carduus* sp., attended by ants & Few samples ready for transportation.