

Project Update: June 2017

June 2017 proved to be very fruitful, both in distribution and population studies. In search for European pond turtles we visited ponds along Velika Morava and Južna Morava Rivers. We focused on localities which looked promising during our survey in 2015. This year, with more experience and better weather on our side, we have found 12 new UTM (10 x 10 km) squares inhabited by *Emys orbicularis*!

With a population near Malo Crniće, during the 3rd year of CMR studies, we have reached recapture rate of 38%! Considering number of marked animals and duration of study, it seems that population is rather small, although individuals show enviable condition index.

We are now preparing for continuation of population studies on Hermann's tortoises in Pčinja Valley, after four years of pause. We hope to meet some of already marked acquaintances soon.



An adult female and a hatchling of *Emys orbicularis*.



Just hatched European pond turtle, not larger than a thumb.



Daily capture in a pond near Malo Crniće village.