

Project update – December 2017

In October 2017 all field activities – the most demanding part of our project – were finished. We managed to complete the field work timetable and avoid obstacles such as bad weather or lack of manpower. Certainly, the work on the first Rufford project helped and equipped our team with useful skills needed for better project planning.

During autumn (September and October 2017) we tried to determine the distribution of the rarest saline specialist *Solenoxypus fuscovenosus* in Pannonian Serbia. Even though the host plant (*Camphorosma annua*) of this true bug was present at almost all sampling sites, the species was recorded only in September 2017 in a small grassland patch near Vlakovac, which wasn't grazed at all during the whole season. Perhaps this bug is more sensitive, in comparison to other saline specialists, and the intensive grazing regime disturbed its populations and doesn't provide needed environmental conditions for its existence.

Currently we are in the final phase of species identification. This will be followed by data analysis and publication of our research results in a scientific journal.



Fig. 1. The rare saline true bug *Solenoxypus fuscovenosus*



Fig. 2. A typical halophyte *Camphorosma annua* – the host of *Solenoxyphus fuscovenosus*



Fig. 3. Species identification