

## Project Update: June 2014

Field investigations of wood ants on Mt. Ozren were continued on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Investigations were conducted in two transect lines 7 and 21 km in length that stretch through different wood and meadow mountain habitats. Average transect route elevation on explored area was 999.5 m (504-1491 m). In total, 50 wood ant colonies were marked with GPS, measurements of the wood ants' anthills were conducted and sampling protocol was applied. Beside *Formica rufa-polyctena* ant species typical *Formica pratensis* and its ecomorphe described as "*nigricans*" was also recorded. On investigated area *Formica execta* was also recorded on open grassland habitats. Ants from each GPS marked colony were sampled and further morphological analysis will be conducted in laboratory.



Fig. 1. Landscape photos of investigated area: coniferous woods of *Picea abies* and *Abies alba*



Fig. 2. Wood ants anthill made of coniferous leaves



Fig. 3. Anthill of *Formica pratensis* ecomorphe *nigricans*



Fig. 4. Anthill of *Formica execta* species colonies are found on open grassland habitats and anthills are made of dry grass



Figs. 5-6. Wood ants are also scavengers that are collecting and transporting dead arthropods in nest