

Project Update: August 2015

From June till the beginning of August 2015, the two expeditions in Volhynia were carried in the search of the threatened *Vertigo* and *Pupilla* species on the fens. The 16 distant fen sites were studied in Volhynian and Rivne regions of Ukraine.

Two new locations of threatened *Vertigo moulinsiana* were found. This species was not known for mainland Ukraine before now. In Ukraine it was known only from the single location in the Crimea where it is recently extinct (see previous report).

One new locality of *Pupilla pratensis* and five new locations of *Vertigo angustior* were found, both these species are threatened.

All these new locations of the threatened species are placed in the two national nature parks (some perhaps near their borders). I will find out precise conservation status of these lands within parks and will send conservation recommendations to the administrations of these protected areas.

Second known locality of *Vertigo geyeri* in Ukraine was visited, but species was not revealed. This area is much transformed. Therefore in both locations of *Vertigo geyeri* that were known from the beginning of the 20th century this species is not revealed now. However I still hope to find it later this year in some other fen sites of Volhynia during further expeditions.

New locations of few more rare species were found in the other habitats adjacent to fens. General data on the distribution and habitat preferences of terrestrial molluscs on the few minor areas was collected. It will be published along with data on the conservation in the additional paper.

Some expedition photos on my Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153513332687206.1073741839.844757205

A list of species for the Red Book of Crimea was recently ratified. It includes 19 species of terrestrial molluscs that were listed here by my recommendations. Now these species are officially protected in this region (including two species whose extinction for Crimea was revealed in previous report).

I have submitted a paper "Threatened land snails *Vertigo moulinsiana* and *Pupilla pratensis* are recently extinct in Crimea (Ukraine)" to "Tentacle" (The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Mollusc Specialist Group).



Vertigo moulinsiana in Volhynia



Our team on the fen with population of *Vertigo moulinsiana*