**PROJECT SUMMARY**

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| **Project number** | FR/29/7-110/12 |
| **Project Title** | Arthropod biodiversity in Mtirala National Park |
| **Research subdirection/ subdirections** | 7-110 Zoology;<br>9-240 Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;<br>7-170 Ecology of Biosystems; |
| **Name of the leading organization** | Georgian State Agricultural University |
| **Web** | agruni.edu.ge |
| **Name of the co-participating organization** | |
| **Web** | |
| **Project Budget (Lari)** | 99724 |
| **Project duration (in month)** | 24 |

**Personnel**

| | Surname, name (affiliation, position) | Position in the project | Academic degree | Date of bitrh |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | maka murvanidze | Principal Investigator | | 1971-10-08 |
| 2 | Tamar Chunashvili | Researcher | | 1982-02-07 |
| 3 | Nana Gratiashvili | Researcher | | 1978-09-11 |
| 4 | Shalva Barjadze | Researcher | | 1980-12-05 |
| 5 | Eristo Kvavadze | Researcher | | 1940-06-19 |

**Project Summary**

The diversity of geographic conditions of Georgia results the diversity of plants and endemic species in it. All this gives perfect bases for insect biodiversity. Mtirala National Park territory covers 16 000 hectare area and found for protection of Colchis relict forest. However summarizing data about national park insects is a very poor.
Our main goals are:
1. To determine biodiversity of dragonflies, coccids, aphids, parasitic wasps, wasps, bumble-bees, ants, butterflies, scarabids, carabids and coccinellids
2. To determine their vertical zonal distributions
3. To determine their zoogeographic distributions
4. To determine trophic relationships and invasive species
5. To determine conservation status of some rear species.
6. To reveal the bio-indicator species
7. To prepare field guide for tourists
To fulfill the project will result important news for faunistic point of view not only for Georgia also for Caucasus and whole world fauna. It will be studied and completed full list of Odonata, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera and Coleoptera. The checklist for each taxa will be done. Biodiversity and their characteristics will be also revealed. Dominant and indicator species will be determined. Peculiarities of vertical-zonal distribution and characteristic of zoogeographic distribution will be given. Trophic relationships, invasive species and biocontrol agents will be established. The threatened species with indicating their conservation status will be established. New species will be described if such will be found.
Information will be gathered for preparing of the field guide and based on our research results illustrative book will be published, where will be given all detected exotic species. The results of the project will be used in environment protection and its rational and mindful use.
The project results will enrich data about biodiversity of Georgia. It will give us possibility to establish strict protection of National Park biodiversity and keep ecological sustainability.
The results will be published as articles, based on collected material collection of national park insects will be created. This collection will be accessible for professionals and naturalists. The album and field guide of national park will be enriched by the photos taken during research.
Materials will be collected by the rout methods, previously chosen. Material will be collected by the suitable methodology for each group of insects. Species determination will be conducted by the modern identification keys by assistance of leading taxonomists from the leading zoological organizations around world. The research results statistically will be analyzed by MVSP, EVEN DIV, PC-ORD computer softwares.