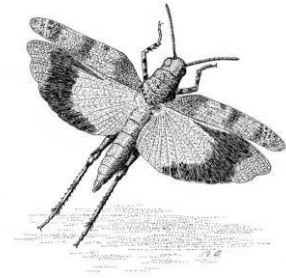


Forschungsförderung der DGfO



Antragsteller:

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Gefördertes Projekt:

Research and training of a junior Albanian orthopterist

Abstract

Albania is a country with high biodiversity potential due to its location in the southern Balkans. However, it has been poorly explored and one of the reasons is the lack of local experts. The recent species discoveries and the current Orthoptera checklist of have been drawn up only by experts from other countries.

We target to increase our view of Orthoptera populations and threats in order to establish an Albanian National Red List. It is of utmost importance to involve scientists of the country. We had a very good experience of collaborating with a junior researcher (Endora Çelohoxhaj) in a conservation action for *Peripodisma ceraunii* from 2020 to 2022. The results were presented at the ECOCIH conference.

The purpose of this research grant is to train her and another young scientist (Gerta Subashaj) to acquire a broad knowledge of the Orthoptera of Albania, and at the same time, to increase our knowledge of this fauna in Albania, by carrying out a set of field training sessions in 2022–2023 in different habitats in the country. Most of the work will be done in-situ, but a few days will be set in laboratory for material examinations with binocular, as part of the training.

The medium term objective is to have local support for any future action. We cannot have sustainable actions, especially conservation actions, without the strong involvement of the well-trained scientists of the country.