

RESEARCH CAMPS FOR STUDENTS IN CICARIJA

Butterfly diversity of the Karst edge

The Slovenian part of the Karst edge, with more than 150 species of daily butterflies (85% percent of all species of daily butterflies of Slovenia), is the centre of butterfly diversity in Slovenia. Flysch and limestone meet here, two contrastingly different substrates that, together with the transitional climate and through differences in the plant world, affect the great diversity of butterflies in the area. In warmer, lower-lying areas (e.g. the surroundings of the Istrian thermal resort), some more thermophilic species may be encountered which are not present or are extremely rare on the northern side.

Under expert guidance, participants of the three-day research camp will thus be able to learn about the world of daily butterflies in the cross-border sub-Mediterranean area of Slovenia and in the northern part of Croatian Istria.

Recommended period: May – June

Meeting point and accommodation: Vodice (Croatia), Speleo House

Fieldwork area: wider area of northern Istria - the area between Rakitovac (Slovenia) and the valley of the Mirna River near Istrian thermal resort (Croatia)

Program:

Day 1

The arrival at the meeting point in the afternoon hours. An introductory lecture in the evening.

Day 2

All day fieldwork: exploring the diversity of butterflies around Rakitovac

In the evening: gathering and editing data and a themed lecture.

Day 3

All day fieldwork: butterfly diversity in the vicinity of the Istrian thermal resort

In the evening: closing of the research camp and departure.

Number of participants: up to eight (maximum number per mentor).

Available material: keys and manuals for identifying butterflies, butterfly nets.

Recommended fieldwork equipment: camera, notebook, fieldwork clothing and footwear, sun and rain protection, pencil.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the organizer and will be served at the accommodation. Participants are responsible for providing other meals.

Price: The price includes guides, material costs, accommodation and two meals (2 x breakfast and 2 x dinner). Price is determined based on the number of participants.

Transportation: It is the responsibility of the participants to organize their own transportation to the meeting point. We recommend the use of personal vehicles for the transport to the field. Transportation of the entire group can be arranged with the event organizer in advance. Transportation costs are covered separately by the participants.

WARNING: Permissions issued by the appropriate bodies of the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia to work with endangered plant and animal species are required for the performance of the program.

