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### **Distribution and conservation of *Vipera ursinii macrops* (Mehely, 1911) in Croatia**

**Student:** DUŠAN JELIĆ, I. Breznička 5a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia, [jelic.dusan@gmail.com](mailto:jelic.dusan@gmail.com)

**Supervisor:** Dr. sc. MILORAD MRAKOVČIĆ, Prof., Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Rooseveltov trg 6, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Dr. sc. LJILJANA TOMOVIĆ, Doc., Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, Studentski trg 16, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

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The Karst Viper is known to appear in Croatia on five isolated localities: Southern Velebit, Poštak, Dinara, Troglav and Kamešnica mountains. All five of these localities make just 9% of the presently known Karst Viper distribution area on the Balkan Peninsula, while a much bigger proportion of its distribution area is located in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The whole distribution area of this taxon is spread over mountainous regions of 6 countries, which makes the regional cooperation even more necessary for the Karst Viper protection. In this Graduation Thesis we discuss the rediscovery of the Karst Viper in the southern parts of Velebit mountain after 109 years, and a newly discovered locality on the mountain Poštak. The Karst Viper in Croatia favors high-mountain dry grasslands, on southern and southeastern exposures, at altitudes from 1100 to 1900 m above the sea level.

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## **Rasprostranjenost i zaštita svojte *Vipera ursinii macrops* (Mehely, 1911) u Hrvatskoj**

**Student:** DUŠAN JELIĆ, I. Breznička 5a, 10000 Zagreb, Hrvatska, jelic.dusan@gmail.com

**Voditelj:** Dr. sc. MILORAD MRAKOVČIĆ, red. prof., Biološki odsjek, Prirodoslovno-matematički fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Rooseveltov trg 6, 10000 Zagreb, Hrvatska

Dr. sc. LJILJANA TOMOVIĆ, Doc., Biološki fakultet, Univerzitet u Beogradu, Studentski trg 16, 11000 Beograd, Srbija

**Datum i mjesto:** 16.4.2008., Biološki odsjek, Prirodoslovno-matematički fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu

Planinski žutokrug poznata je trenutno u Hrvatskoj sa ukupno pet odvojenih lokaliteta: južni Velebit, Poštak, Dinara, Troglav i Kamešnica. Ovih pet lokaliteta čini tek nešto manje od 9% areala ove svojte, dok najveći dio areala čine planine Bosne i Hercegovine. Čitav areal rasprostire se preko teritorija 6 država i regionalna suradnja na istraživanjima i zaštiti su neophodni za opstanak planinskog žutokruga. Ovim radom opisuje se ponovni nalaz planinskog žutokruga na južnom Velebitu nakon punih 109 godina, te otkriće posve novog lokaliteta na planini Poštak. Planinski žutokrug u Hrvatskoj preferira visoko-planinske suhe travnjake, J i JI ekspozicije, na visinama između 1100 i 1900m nadmorske visine.