

Scientific expedition of Samarkand State University and Moscow State University
to study the fauna of invertebrates of central and southern Uzbekistan

REPORT

From April 24 to May 15, 2020, a scientific expedition was conducted in collaboration with professors and teachers of the Department of Zoology of Samarkand State University and researchers of Moscow State University.

The purpose of the expedition was to study the diversity of invertebrates in the central and southern regions of Uzbekistan, with special emphasis on several groups of animals. In particular, specimens were collected from scorpions and phalanges belonging to the class of arthropods, scorpions and amphibians of the class of insects, as well as animals belonging to the genus Mollusks.

During this scientific exoedition, research was conducted and samples were collected at the following addresses:

Address	The goal	Date of arrival	Date of departure
Sherabad district of Surkhandarya region	Collection of insect samples from Kattakum desert and surrounding sands in Surkhandarya region.	26.04.20	30.04.20
Jayron Eco-Center (Kagan district of Bukhara region)	Collection of insect samples from the banks of the Amu-Bukhara canal and the surrounding sands.	30.04.20	01.05.20
Surkhan State Reserve (Sherabad district of Surkhandarya region)	Collection of insect samples from Surkhandarya reserve .	01.05.20	03.05.20
Alat district of Bukhara region	Collection of insect samples from the Dengizkul plateau.	03.05.20	06.05.20
Nurata State Reserve (Forish district of Jizzakh region)	Collection of insect samples from Nurata State Reserve.	06.05.20	10.05.20

Gissar State Reserve (Shakhrisabz district of Kashkadarya region)	Collection of insect samples from Gissar State Reserve.	10.05.20	15.05.20
---	---	----------	----------

As a result of this expedition the following works were carried out:

- Insect samples were collected from a number of deserts of central and southern Uzbekistan (Kattakum desert, Dengizkul plateau, Yakzakku sands);
- Insect samples were collected from a number of mountainous regions of central and southern Uzbekistan (Gissar ridge, Kohitang ridge, Nurata ridge, Zarafshan ridge) ;
- The current state of entomofauna of a number of protected areas of Uzbekistan (Surkhan, Nurata, Gissar state reserves, Jayron eco-center, Zarafshan National Nature Park) was studied;
- The fund of entomologic collection under the Department of Zoology of SamDu has been enriched with more than 2000 species of insects;
- So far, unregistered species have been identified in Uzbekistan;
- A number of insects listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan were recorded at new points.

In addition, during the scientific expedition, the prospects for further study of the entomofauna of a number of regions of Uzbekistan and the possibility of organizing new expeditions were discussed.

Leader of the scientific expedition: Rakhimov MR