

Where are the dragonflies?

Hello, we are Prva privatna gimnazija s pravom javnosti Varaždin, private high school in northwestern Croatia. We have submitted a project called *Where are the dragonflies?* The aim of the project is to investigate the impact of abiotic factors on the biological world. We chose the Drava River because it is under certain protection, it is part of the Mura-Drava Regional Park and in the Natura 2000 network. We want to explore how the impact of humans and their activities affects biodiversity. The project is carried out by a biology and chemistry teacher Marko Pavlović, mag. educ. biol et chem. together with students of the Science program.

What has been done so far?

The project started at the beginning of September with the selection and ordering of equipment, the definition of measuring stations and the writing of field forms. The research is carried out in a protected area and we had to obtain a permit for research from the administrative body that manages the protected area. With the arrival of the equipment, we immediately went to the field and the students got acquainted with the materials and methods of sample collection, colorimetric titrations and species determination. We visited all the measured stations and collected data for all locations and the list of species increases with each trip to the field. We visit each station once a month. In the first swing of project, our students presented the project at an international conference on the Drava River in Varaždin and stood side by side with scientists.



Photo 1. The first photo shows a student with a net catching juveniles of fish. The second photo shows second measuring station, Vratno Otok.



Photo 2. Display of results and data processing in the classroom.



Photo 3. Work in the field.



Photo 4. The team working on the project.