

Field research trip: Altai Mountains flora study and collection

Objectives. The description of certain countries' biodiversity, understanding of the volume and exact identification of species has a significant value for plant resources management, defining the priorities in rare species conservation and monitoring. One of the floristic bulletins being edited is the Flora of Altai. This unique natural site is situated on the territory of four countries. At present, flora of vascular plants of Altai Mountains includes no less than 2700 species, and the description of new species which is as a result of both critical revision of complicated groups and the discovery of new taxa is still going on. Flora of Altai in general is rather complicated, formed on the basis of at least three greatly differing floras – Boreal Euro-Siberian, Steppe and Ancient Mediterranean. Altai mountainous area has distinctive natural objects; about 300 endemic plants grow on its territory. Altai is characterized by low coverage density of botanic collections and holds many secrets. This field tripe created for showing as much as possible variety of plant communities.

Contemporary global experience on the creation of floristic bulletins includes collaboration of the scientists from different countries. The main purpose of this event is the teaming up for the work on a new Flora of Altay edition.

Dates: 11–16 June 2019.

Route of the field trip includes Chermal base for educational practices, Seminsky pass, mouth of the Chuya river, the Chuya valley, Aktash village, Kosh-Agach district, the Elangash valley, the Kokorya valley and the Chulyshman valley.

DAY 1 (July 11, Thursday)

9:00–13:00 – Transfer to Chermal.

14:00 – Lunch.

15:00–16:00 – Lecture «The project «Flora of Altai» and present of new on-line resource».

16:00–18:00 – Discussion «Modern approaches to the creation of Floristic reports (global experience) ». 18:00 – Dinner.

19:00 – Free time and feedback session.

DAY 2 (July 12, Friday)

9:00 – Breakfast.

10:00 – Transfer to Seminsky pass.

13:00 – Lunch.

14:00 – Excursion to the mountain Sarlyk (plant communities: high mountain (alpine) meadow, subalpine light forests and elfin woods, mountain (alpine) tundra).

18:00 – Dinner.

19:00 – Free time. Banya (Russian sauna).

DAY 3 (July 13, Saturday)

9:00 – Breakfast.

10:00 – Transfer to Aktash village with excursion to steppe and petrophytic plant communities.

19:00 – Dinner. Free time. Banya (Russian sauna).

DAY 4 (July 14, Sunday)

9:00 – Breakfast.

10:00 – Excursion to Kokorya valley (different types of arid vegetation).

18:00 – Dinner. Free time.

DAY 5 (July 15, Monday)

9:00 – Breakfast.

10:00 – Excursion to Chulyshman valley (petrophytic communities).

18:00 – Dinner.

DAY 6 (July 16, Tuesday)

8:00–9:00 – Breakfast.

9:00–17:00 – Trip back to Gorno-Altai. Lunch on the way.