

## ***“On the rocks”– Wissenschaft im Wirtshaus***

### **Preface**

The Workshop “Alpine Land Snails 2017” took place again in Johnsbach, Styria, Austria, this year from August, 20 - 26. Austrian biologists and colleagues from Slovenia, Russia, Montenegro, Italy, Greece, Germany, and Hungary have gathered in this extraordinary place in the Gesäuse to perform collecting trips and field experiments, to exchange results and experiences.

This year’s theme was “On the rocks”. We focused on rock dwelling snails and performed a field study on population size and species diversity at several rock sites. The scientific lectures (and some social events) were based at famous Köblwirt as well as for two days at the renowned alpine refuge Hesshütte on the Hochtorn Mountain massive at 1700 m.a.s.l. In the surrounding mountains, we collected data about the high alpine gastropod faunas. But this workshop again included also some “extra-snailities”. Once more we had entomologists in the team and they searched for dragonflies in the region. Moreover, we staged again an evening for the public under the motto “Pub Science” (“Wissenschaft im Wirtshaus”) which focused on the biology and ecological needs of rock dwelling animals and plants. This public event took place on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at Köblwirt. The research activities lasted until August 26<sup>th</sup>.

The workshop was organized by the Natural History Museum Vienna together with the Nationalpark Gesäuse, supported by the society “Friends of the NHMW”, the society “Mollusc Research Austria”, and kindly hosted by our friends at Köblwirt and Hesshütte.

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Artikel/Article: [“On the rocks”– Wissenschaft im Wirtshaus - Preface 3](#)