

Project Update: September 2015

Our first objective is to carry out more detailed fieldwork to map the full extent of the wild populations of *B. megrelica* in the area surrounding the known populations. Collection of plant material and seed can help us understand the genetic variety of this relict species. Ex-situ conservation collections can be established using the seed. The first step was the commissioning of a local photographer to record the spring flowering of *Betula megrelica*.

To our knowledge these are the first photos taken of the tree in flower in the wild. In May 2015, Roman Tolordava journeyed onto Mt Migaria (he accompanied me in 2013) and took many fine photos.



Betula megrelica catkins and female flowers. Photo by Roman Tolordava (© Stone Lane Gardens).