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THE FIFTH KARSTOLOGICAL SCHOOL "THE CLASSICAL KARST": CAVE SYSTEMS. Postojna, June 30 - July 3, 1997

For a long time karstologists have been well aware that knowledge about karst must be deepened and widened. This is why we organise, every year, the karstological school, destined for karstologists, students, all those that plan life on karst and obviously for all those living on the karst. The lectures held during the school promote new knowledge about karst genesis and the impacts of human activity on this sensitive landscape.

The school of this year was dedicated to cave systems, that is to the origin and development of caves and to the cavernosity of aquifers.

The mornings lectures given by Slovene and foreign experts dealt with types of caves in the karst of Slovakia and Slovenia, with cave development in a part of the Czech karst, with flowstone formations, with origin and development of selected caves in Slovenia, Croatia and Italy, with the influence of bedding-planes and faults on the development of Postojnska jama, with cave sediments, with caves discovered during the motorway construction on karst, with caves that developed at the contact with impermeable rocks, and with the relation between caves and dolines. The discussion was open to everybody. The papers will be published in *Acta Carologica*.

Afternoons and the entire last day were dedicated to field work. In the first afternoon we visited the non-tourist parts of Škocjanske Jame and had a look at some typical features in the Reka river-bed and in the higher level old passages. The origin and development of caves were presented. In Postojnska Jama special attention was paid to the features showing traces of the cave's development and that of its flowstones. A profile from Kraški Rob, from the higher old caves to the present springs at the contact with flysch, revealed the main periods of the development of this border aquifer. We visited a part of the aquifer, through which the waters from Cerkniško Polje flow into Planinska Jama; this is a part of the underground Ljubljana flow. In Rakov Škocjan, caves are located between collapse dolines, and the Zelške Jame caves are a good example of periodically flooded passages with a typical rock surface relief.

Since the beginning of 1993 the Karstological School has been highly valued in Slovenia and abroad. In spite of some financial problems we believe that the external support will assure its successful promotion also in future.

The number of participants is growing from year to year. This time there were 67 participants from 8 countries.

We may conclude that the aim of such a school, i.e.

to widen the understanding of this unique karst landscape, in this case particularly underground, was completely fulfilled and that the school was successful.

Staša Tome

3. SVETOVNI HERPETOLOŠKI KONGRES
Praga, Češka republika, 2.-10. avgust 1997

Poleti 1997 je prestolnica Češke republike gostila številne strokovnjake in amaterje, ki se znanstveno ali ljubiteljsko ukvarjajo z dvoživkami in plazilci. Prijavljenih je bilo 512 predavanj in 278 posterjev, sodelovalo je 1121 avtorjev z vsega sveta. Predavanja so bila organizirana kot zasedanja in simpoziji, razdeljena pa so bila v več sklopov, ki pokrivajo vse vidike preučevanja dvoživk in plazilcev. Prispevki o ogroženosti herpetofavne so bili združeni v sklope: Herpetofavna in onesnaževalci okolja, Upadanje populacij dvoživk: geografija in možni vzroki, Vpliv človekove aktivnosti na populacije dvoživk, Upadanje populacij plazilcev in strategija njihove zaščite ter Strategija zaščite dvoživk in plazilcev. Paleontološko so bili obarvani naslednji sklopi: Dvoživke paleozoika, Zgodnji plazilci in Dvoživke in plazilci mezozoika. Z evolucijo so se ukvarjali sklopi: Evolucija kač, Evolucija in sistematika kač, Evolucija in sistematika plazilcev, Evolucija repatih krkonov ter Evolucija in sistematika brezrepcev. Fiziološki procesi, rast in razvoj so bili obravnavani v sklopih: Fiziologija dvoživk in plazilcev, Temperatura in določanje spola pri plazilcih, Razvoj pri dvoživkah, Rast in razvoj pri plazilcih, Neonatologija plazilcev. Obsežne celodnevne sklope so oblikovale vedno aktualne teme, s katerimi se ukvarja veliko število strokovnjakov: Ekologija dvoživk, Ekologija plazilcev, Zoogeografija dvoživk in plazilcev, Morfologija dvoživk, Morfologija plazilcev, Filogenija in sistematika družine gadov, Razmnoževanje dvoživk, Razmnoževanje plazilcev, Vedenje dvoživk, Vedenje plazilcev, Populacijska ekologija dvoživk, Populacijska biologija plazilcev in Biologija in biodiverziteta afriške herpetofavne. Manjši sklopi pa so bili: Zgodovina herpetologije: herpetološke ekspedicije in potovanja, Strupi dvoživk in plazilcev, Spreminjanje podnebja in njegov vpliv na herpetofavno, Razmnoževanje v ujetništvu, Oglašanje dvoživk, Kromosomske študije dvoživk in plazilcev, Parazitologija in Morske želve: biologija, ekologija, gospodarjenje.

Zaradi velikega števila prispevkov je bil čas posameznih predavanj omejen na 15 minut, 5 minut pa je bilo namenjenih diskusiji. Predavanja so potekala hkrati v šestih dvoranah praškega Kongresnega centra, tako da se je večkrat težko odločiti med več zanimivimi