



Some new speleological research in mountain part of Croatian karst

Mladen Garasic (1,2)

(1) Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb, Geotechnical, Zagreb, Croatia (mgarasic@grad.hr), (2) Croatian Speleological Federation, Zagreb (mgarasic@public.carnet.hr)

The southern part of Velebit mountain and the peak area Crnopac has long attracted the interest of Croatian cavers. Until 1978. year in this area were explored Jama pored puteljčića (in the year 1929), Cave Svetinja (in the year 1948), Lower Cerovačka Cave (length 2779 m), Upper Cerovacka Cave (length 1295m) and the Central Cerovačka cave (length 448 m), which were investigated in more occasions since their discovery in the year of 1912, 1932 and 1965. After the year 1978. over 170 of the exploration area Crnopac were organised. It is explored more than 200 caves, the most important; Cave system Gaćešina Kita- Draženova puhaljka (-530 m of depth, 13837 m of horizontal length or 18182 m of real length), Cave Munizaba (depth -437 m, 6947 m of horizontal length and real length of 8479 m), Cave Jama Muda Labudova (depth -500 m), Cave Burinka (depth -290 m, length 500 m), Cave Michelangelo (depth -274 m), Alibabina cave (depth -218 m), another 13 pits deeper than 100 meters and the new channels were explored the Lower and Middle Cerovačka cave. The lower entrance to the Cave system Kita Gaćešina – Draženova puhaljka is located on the northern side of the massif Crnopac, a hundred meters below the saddle between the peaks of Kita Gaćešina and Munizaba. Today, it is easily accessible because it is only a hundred meters to near the entrance because in 2005. road was built there. Cave entrance found in 2004. cavers from Sibenik, and the same year they reach 335 meters of depth. Next year were surveyed more than 2 km length of channels by join of cavers from Split and Zagreb, and in year 2006. and many others from caving clubs from all over Croatia. By the end of year 2008. length of cave were more than 10 kilometers, and the following year cavers wide the passage of the cave Draženova puhaljka and connect with the Cave system Kita Gaćešina. Until the end of 2010. taken a totally more than of 60 caving action research in which 130 cavers from 14 clubs. Total depth of this cave system is 530 meters, horizontal length is 13837 meters and real total length is 18182 meters. This is actually a network vadose vertical and inclined channels that penetrate fossil horizontal channels, the remnants of groundwater flow from Gracac polje to the direction of Zrmanja river. The largest number of spacious horizontal channel has been developed in two clear floors at depths of approximately 160-190 meters and 360-400 meters from the upper entrance to the system. The upper entrance (Draženova puhaljka) is located at 980 m, while the lower (Kita Gaćešina) at 915 m above sea level.