

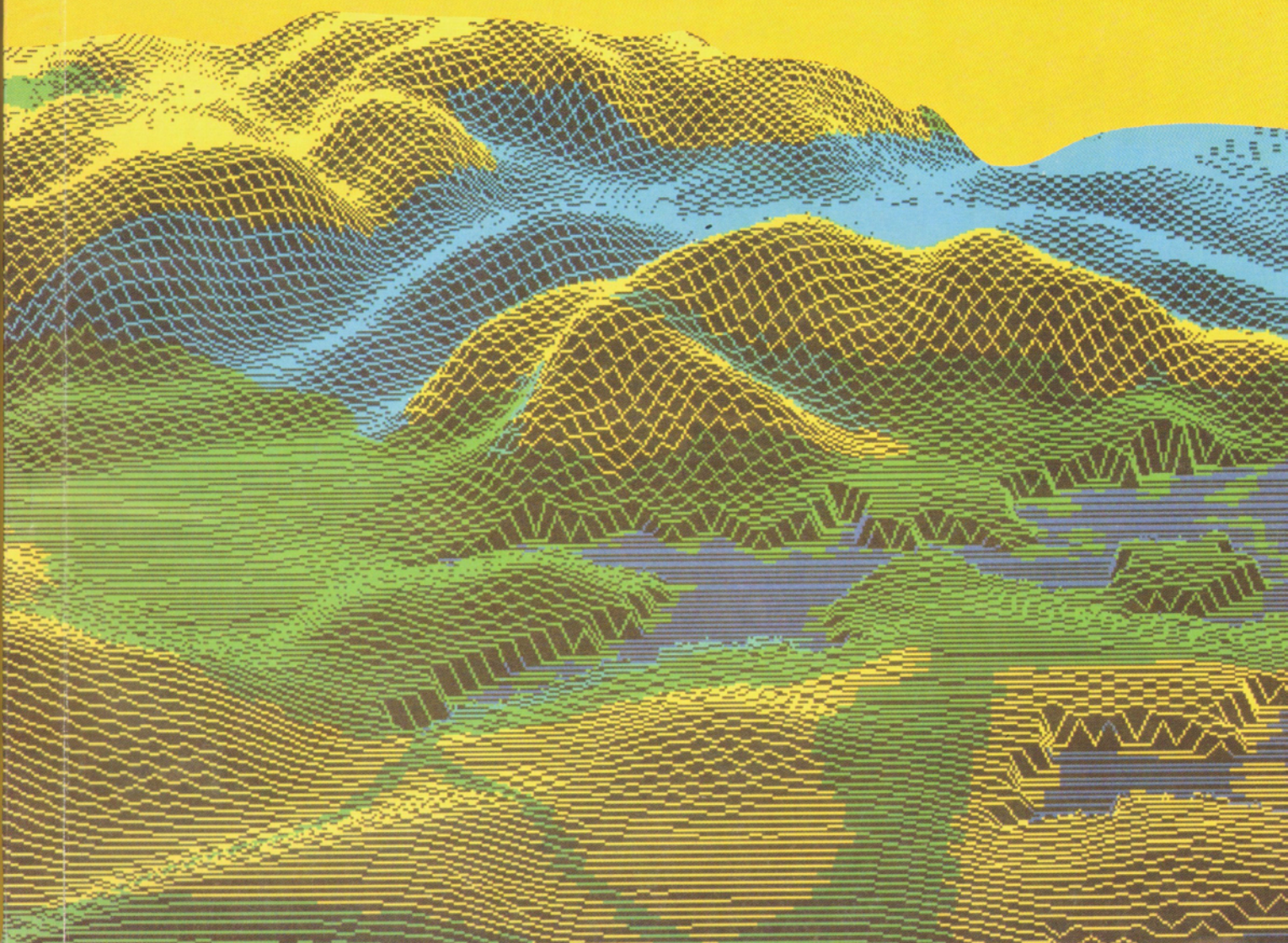
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To research of pseudokarst

(5th Pseudokarst Symposium with International Participation)

Karel KIRCHNER

Pseudokarst symposia have been regularly held since 1982. They summarize on international level new knowledge about research, documentation and protection of both surface and underground pseudokarst forms and processes, which condition their origin in non-karstic rocks. Information about the symposia held in the past years is available in K. KIRCHNER (1991), and J. KOPECKÝ (1994). Results of the pseudokarst research are directly related to geomorphology and physical geography. The issue of protection of pseudokarst forms is considerably important also from the viewpoint of environment. The pseudokarst symposia are traditionally attended by experts from the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The 5th Pseudokarst Symposium with International Participation was held at Szczyrk (The Silesian Beskids Mts., Poland) in 22 - 25 September, 1994. It was organized by the Klub Taternictwa Jaskiniowego "Speleoklub" from Bialsko-Biala. With its topics the Symposium linked up with previous meetings and the programme included presentation of papers, field discussions as well as discussions over problems of research, record, documentation and protection of pseudokarst landforms.

In contrast to preceding symposia the number of participants was lower this time - merely 25 specialists from Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland. Of the originally registered 16 papers only 13 were actually presented. The majority of contributions concerned mainly pseudokarst caves and processes which take part in their formation (9 papers). Other papers discussed distribution of both surface and underground pseudokarst micro- and mesoforms in various types of rocks.

Within the scope of the first thematic group G. KLASSEK (Poland) informed about morphogenetic types of caves in the Polish Flysch Carpathians characterizing their location and size. There are 318 caves surveyed in the Polish Flysch Carpathians, of which the longest one is the cave situated on the elevation point Trzy Kopcy - length of 848 m (The Silesian Beskids Mts.) and the deepest one Diabla Dziura at Bukowec - depth of -42.5 m (Roznowskie Plateau). J. KOPECKÝ (Czech Republic) presented a paper about speleological investigations and documentation of pseudokarst caves in the locality Ledové sluje, Podyjí National Park. There were 20 caves of various types registered there, the longest cave system being over 400 m long. Newly discovered caves (5 gulch caves) in the Vizovická vrchovina Highland were reported by J. WAGNER (Czech Republic). In his other paper the author discussed the issue of mapping pseudokarst caves of gulch and block types. Inventory of pseudokarst caves in Mesozoic sandstones and conglomerates of the Svatokřížské Mts. was discussed by J. URBAN (Poland) who mentioned the existence of 19 caves in this part of Central Poland. T. STRIEBEL (Germany) presented an extensive paper on the occurrence of pseudokarst caves in the vicinity of the town of Bayreuth in Bavaria. There are 70 caves recorded and documented in the Mesozoic sandstones. Very interesting were both papers by I. ESZTERHÁS from Hungary, which concerned pseudokarst caves in neovolcanic rocks and geyser domes. The author classified the caves in geyserits by their origin into syngenetic, hydrothermal and epigenetic. Attention of the participants was captured by V. STÁREK (Czech Republic) who in his paper compared the pseudokarst caves from the Kokořín region in Bohemia and Grottes de Cales in France. The caves originated in similar geological and

geomorphological conditions and have been used from the earliest times until today (dwelling, farming facilities, hiding places).

The second thematic group included the paper of K. KIRCHNER (Czech Republic), which was the first information about geomorphological survey into micro- and mesoforms existing in crystalline rocks of the Podyjí National Park. This was the first time that rock pits and lapies were documented on granites of the Dyje Massif in the eastern part of the Podyjí National Park. In his second contribution, the author presented a survey of underground and surface pseudokarst forms of the Vsetínské vrchy (Hills) in N. Moravia. There are 28 localities of pseudokarst forms registered in this area built of flysch rocks. Six of them can boast of gulch and fissure caves whose origin is connected with the processes of deep creep and rock sliding. B. WUTZIG (Germany) informed about occurrence and documentation of pseudokarst forms in granites of the Harz Mts. Until a short time ago, the area was a part of an inaccessible border zone between the former German Democratic Republic and Federal Republic of Germany. Numerous pseudokarst forms can be seen namely in the highest part of the mountains - in the area of Brocken (1142 m). The second paper of J. KOPECKÝ presented results achieved during the geomorphological research in Cretaceous sandstones of Polická vrchovina Highland in eastern Bohemia. Geomorphological mapping makes it possible to register the maximum of pseudokarst micro- and mesoforms. This area has been subjected to investigations concerning the dynamics of slope processes within the rock sandstone massifs (application of TM-71 meters, geodetic spatial network, hydromonitoring).

Friendly atmosphere of the Symposium and topics discussed in the papers opened a lively discussion which was supplemented with the presentation of slides from the pseudokarst of the Palatine Forest (E. KNUST, Germany) and with a video by I. ESZTERHÁS about the pseudokarst in Hungarian neovolcanites.

Workshop character of the Symposium was properly combined with a excursion whose route led through the vicinity of the venue - Szczyrk - and which documented the distribution of underground and surface pseudokarst forms typical of the flysch rocks of the Silesian Beskids. The participants to the excursion had a good opportunity to get acquainted not only with basic features of the top relief parts with a whole range of rock formations such as Malinowska skala 1152 m, Koscielec 1022 m, Skrzyczne 1257 m, but also to visit the cave of Malinowska as well as the largest cave in the Polish Flysch Carpathians at Trzy Kopcy (length 848 m).

Good organization largely contributed to general success of the Symposium which turned out to be the next step toward solution of the issue of research, record, documentation and protection of both surface and underground pseudokarst forms. The presented results confirmed a necessity of regular international meetings of experts. The next conference will be held in Hungary in 1996 with closer coordination of activities at further pseudokarst investigations having been agreed as follows: Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Romania in flysch mountain ranges of Carpathians, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic in Cretaceous sandstones, Hungary, Slovakia or possibly also Romania and Ukraine in neovolcanites of the Inner Carpathians. Detailed conclusions from the Symposium are presented in J. KOPECKÝ (1995). Shortened papers as well as abstracts have already been published, the complete Proceedings of all papers are being prepared by organizers for edition in 1995.

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