

Exploration of the Resurgence Part of Punkva River in the Moravian Karst in the Past and Now

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Abstract

Punkva river, principle water flow of the northern part of the Moravian Karst, is in close relation with the history of cave diving in Czech countries. Punkva appears for a short time on the bottom of 138,4 m deep Macocha Abyss. Then it reappears again in the valley, where the entrance to Punkevní show caves has been discovered in 1909. Punkva river has been explored since the middle of 19th century. Profesor Absolon reached the bottom of Macocha through dry passages and short artificial tunnel in 1914. Diving, using hard head Draeger diving suit, pumping and finally blasting has been used to find the water way from Macocha to the resurgence. The water way has been opened in 1933. We have started the revision of earlier explorations in 1998. We did not consider it to be very important. But it resulted in complicated excavation of timber blocking underwater passages. The final result was the discovery of the deepest sump of the Moravian Karst -48,9 m, in a quite complex underwater system, that nobody expected there. Its exploration is still going on.