

Biospeleological Reconnaissance In Montenegro

Minos Groupe (Paris)

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From 25th July to 8th August 2004

2 – *Boca Kotor*



Straight in Boca Kotor.
Kotor.

The slopes of Orjen Massif deep into the Risan Bay.



Gospa Od Skrpjela Islands.



3 – Risan Bay

View above Risan town located in the Kotor Bay on the Adriatic coast.



Fig. 1 -
Carte du Monténégro
au 1 : 250 000

4 – Crkvice Fortress



28-7-2004

The ruins of Crkvice seems a ghost-city (1090 m a. s. l.), without soul alive, but this place is ever indicated on the maps...

Since 1797, castles et military buildings of Orjen Massif defended the border of Austrian Empire against Ottoman one.



5 – Military Paths of Orjen

The military paths radiate out from Crkvice Fortress and allow to go everywhere in the Orjen Mountain, but on foot of course.



6 – French Presence ?



Built path in the Orjen massif.

A carved rock near Crkvice reveals the presence of French army.
The figure 2 of 1882 is written in the wrong way...



7 – Very Militarized Zone



Without roads, the Orjen Massif is impassable, it's the reason why the military people adapted to their background. They built paths with stones for to move more easily.

The pickaxe used to carve the stone (to open roads and paths) and various objects found at the bottom of shafts.



8 – Grenade Cave

The Austro-Hungarian lane goes round the Grenade Cave, because is to large for to be filled by stones...



We find insects cave...
And also grenade war.



30-7-2004

9 – Orjen Poljes



The large polje of Dragalj.

10 – Dragalj Polje



27-7-2004

The big depression called Dragalj Polje.

11 – Karstic Landscape Of Na Pode



Na Pode Village and the karstic depressions cultivated.

It happens frequently to find snakes on the path, as the *Vipera ammodytes*.



12 – Caves Rich In Fauna



Erikovacka Cave is very rich in Coleoptera proper to the caves.

13 – Very Colonized Caves



Blattochaeta marianii

A few Bathyscinae
coming from Erikovacka Cave.

In this same cave, we can find three
different species of Antroherpons !



14 – Remorseless Predator Land



Pseudoscorpion.

This new Trechinae, recently described, has been caught for the first time in Erikovacka Cave.



15 – The Professor K. Absolon Traps

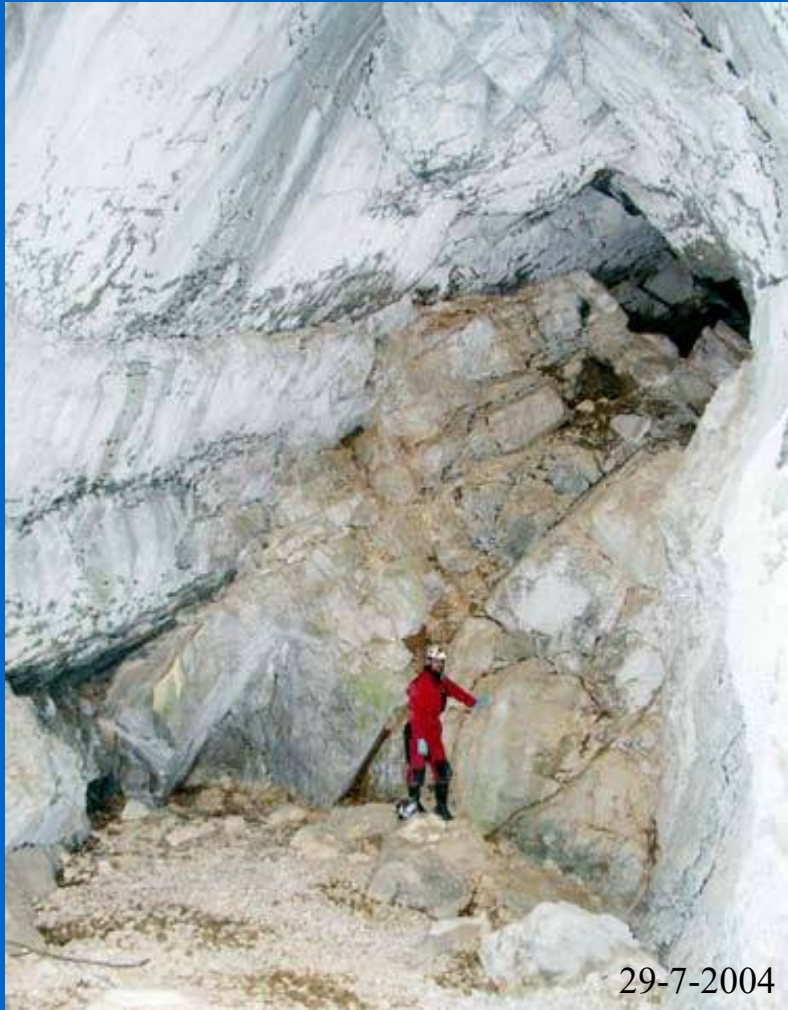
Insects traps (bottom of bottles sawn-off), probably put about 1914 (Grenade Cave) by the Professor Absolon, are still in place.



Karel Absolon
(1877-1960)
from Prague
University.



16 – A Site Found Again: Vilina Pecina



In looking for, we have found the entrance of Vilina Cave, a old site used by the famous professor Karel Absolon.

The 31th of July 2004, we decided to leave Orjen Massif for to go to the northern of Montenegro.

17 – Niksic Area



Cultivated Polje near *Durkovo Brdo* in north of Niksic.

18 – Converted Poljes Of Niksic



31-7-2004

Carev Most : Czar Bridge.

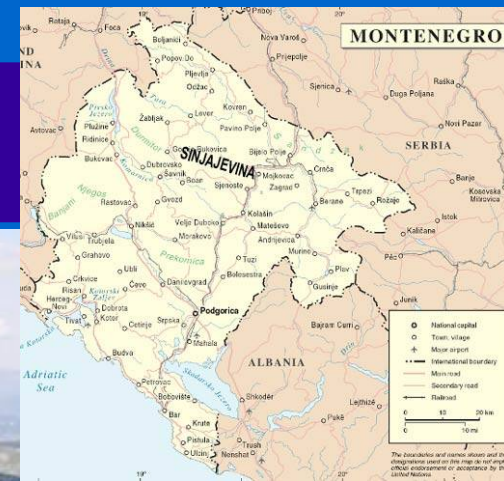
Poljes drained near Nikšić.



Slano Jezero
Poljes flooded.

3-8-2004

19 – Sinjajevina Massif



The Sinjajevina Massif is located in east of Durmitor. It is mostly less known than Durmitor Massif. There are few roads penetrating in the massif uninhabited except by about the forty of bears.

1-8-2004

20 – Sinjajevina Massif

The karstic plateau is covered by the moraine but it is dotted with dolines.

With the pastures, it's difficult to find any entrance cave...



21 – Sinjajevina Massif



Foothills of Sinjajevina Massif

22 – *Grcko Groblje*



Grcko Groblje (« Greek Graveyard »)



1-8-2004

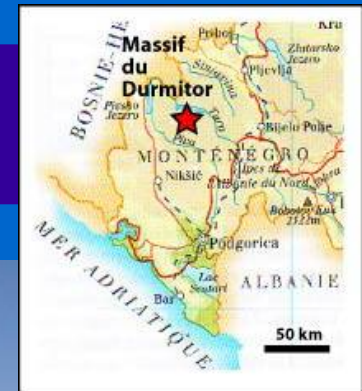
23 – The Lakes Plateau



1-8-2004

Sevarita Lovka on Jezerska Povr (the « Lakes Plateau »).

24 – Durmitor Massif



Breakdown on the Durmitor tracks.

On the left, we can see *Stozina Peak* (1908 m a. s. l.).



1-8-2004

25 – Durmitor Massif

The *Korita*
Ravine and in
the distance
the *Zabljak*
Plain.



2-8-2004

26 – Durmitor Massif

Mountain
pastures and
Crepulj Poljana
hut.

Behind the
pastures,
we can see *Obla*
Glava Peak
(2303 m a. s. l.).



2-8-2004

27 – Durmitor Massif

Haymaking
season in the
Durmitor
Massif.



1-8-2004

28 – Durmitor Massif



Summits of Durmitor.

The rough
camping near
Durmitor
Peaks.



29 – *Ledena Pecina*

Ledena Pecina or the « ice cave ».



The End

