A NEW BOOK PUBLISHED: KARSTOLOGY IN THE CLASSICAL KARST

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Springer, 2020,
222 pp, 165 illustrations in colour, 30 b/w illustrations

ISBN 978-3-030-26826-8 (Hardcover), eBook ISBN 978-3-030-26827-5

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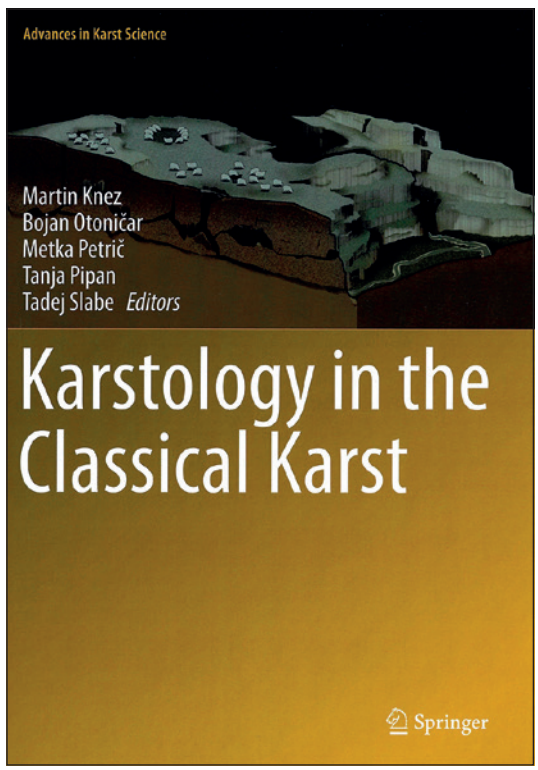

It is difficult to follow progress in all areas of natural sciences on a daily basis; therefore, comprehensive review papers and books on specific topics are particularly welcome in the scientific community. One such example in karstology is a book recently published by Springer in the Book Series "Advances in Karst Science" on the Classical Karst. Since 2017, when this book series was launched, five books have been published on various karst-related topics. "Karstology in the Classical Karst" is the first book that presents a selected karst area from different perspectives, supported by interdisciplinary methods, including monitoring and data analysis from geographical, geological, geomorphological, speleological, hydrogeological, biological and microbiological viewpoints. It seems that only a holistic approach to study karst fits this particular and peculiar landscape.

The functioning of the three-dimensional karst landscape using the example of the Classical Karst is presented in 12 chapters written by 20 authors. Successful karst research begins with extensive fieldwork, proper site selection and at least a basic understanding of the functioning of abiotic and biotic factors. The Classical Karst is still a fascinating piece of karst landscape, where new scientific questions are constantly emerging. For example, seven chapters refer directly or indirectly to Škocjan Caves, which are placed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list and where exploration of the cave area began as early as 1782. The book provides answers to some basic questions in karst science. Modelling of processes requires large and reliable datasets. Interpretation of the evolution of karst cannot exclude detailed structural-geological mapping. Karst offers various natural resources; in many areas this is drinking water. Readers of this book will get acquainted with the Kras aquifer, measurements of dissolution and calcite precipitation along the underground river flow, long-term water monitoring to understand the dynamics of groundwater flow and mass transport, and pollution prevention plans based on tracer tests and vul-

nerability mapping. Surface karst rock features indicate different stages of karst formation and its development. In the book, karst sediment research in Slovenia is summarised and gives a base for the interpretation of past climate conditions. Paleokarst features were used for chronological and spatial interpretation of the Adriatic carbonate platform. Karst in the Classical Karst area is shown to offer home to various organisms whose presence often goes unnoticed. The path of faunal colonisation of subterranean habitats is not yet fully understood, but recent studies, outlined in the book, will help to answer this question.

Over the past few decades, karst has also been exposed to many improper management practices. Books like this one also provide a critical message for policy and decision makers when making decisions about development in karst regions, concerning water supply, nature conservation, planning and construction of traffic routes and land use management. The book contains some useful information for rational and sustainable planning of lifestyle and infrastructure and, with its extensive literature, provides guidance for further reading. The book can also serve as a textbook for selected courses at the Doctoral study program Karstology led and carried out by the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU in the framework of the UNESCO Chair on Karst Education and coordinated by the University of Nova Gorica.

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