



## FIRST CIRCULAR

# 14. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PSEUDOKARST ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE (HOLY CROSS) MOUNTAINS CENTRAL POLAND Chęciny 4-7.06.2020

## SYMPOSIUM TOPIC

### **Pseudokarst caves in present-day exploration and scientific research**

Pseudokarst (non-karst) caves represent great number of caves discovered, explored and studied currently and in the past. However, they are still underestimated in publications, presentations and media reports dedicated to cave exploration and research. Just now the International Union of Speleology is preparing its activities for the International Year of Caves and Karst. “Karst” is clearly called in this Year name, but we know that many caves are not related to karst. Which will be our contribution to the organisation of this year? How will non-karst caves be “visible” during this Year and discerned after its completion? This problem and other similar topics will be subjects of discussion during the 14. International Symposium of Pseudokarst in the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, Central Poland.

## SYMPOSIUM PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – arrival of participants,  
evening: walk to the Chęciny town and medieval castle

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – scientific sessions  
evening: meeting of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June – field scientific session (excursion): “Świątokrzyskie Mts. – geology, structural geomorphology, sandstone crags and non-karst caves”

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June – half day excursion: “Świątokrzyskie Mts. – karst and consequence (anthropogenic) caves”,  
departure of participants

Sunday-Wednesday, 7-10<sup>th</sup> June – post-conference excursion: “Pseudokarst and karst caves of the Beskidy Mountains and Pieniny Mountains” (starting after the Sunday excursion)

The program could be modified depending on number of presentations or participants.

## SYMPOSIUM WEBSITE AND CONTACTS

Symposium website: [14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com](http://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com)

Symposium e-mail address: [14pseudokarst@iop.krakow.pl](mailto:14pseudokarst@iop.krakow.pl)

Personal addresses: [urban@iop.krakow.pl](mailto:urban@iop.krakow.pl) (Jan Urban)  
[buczek@iop.krakow.pl](mailto:buczek@iop.krakow.pl) (Krzysztof Buczek)

Telephone numbers: +48 694 670 815 (Jan Urban)  
+48 506 939 867 (Krzysztof Buczek).

## REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

First registration of all participants must be done by submission of the initial registration form (attached) to the symposium e-mail address up to 31<sup>th</sup> January 2020. If there is no confirmation of receiving this form, please send it to one of the personal e-mail addresses given above. 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular and detailed registration form will be sent to people already registered on the basis of submitted initial registration forms.

## KEY DATES

31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – deadline of preliminary registration (necessary for all participants)

15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – second circular (with details on costs, payment possibilities, access to the Symposium place, detailed registration form)

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – deadline of papers’ submission,

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – deadline of payment and second (detailed) registration form submission

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – third circular (with detailed program and more details on access of the Symposium place)

4-7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – 14<sup>th</sup> International Pseudokarst Symposium, Chęciny

7-10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – post-conference excursion

## ESTIMATED COSTS

Costs of the Symposium, which we – organisers – would like to keep relatively small, depend on number of participants and possible sponsoring. Therefore, currently, we can only estimate them. The exact costs will be quoted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular.

Symposium fee (covering: participation in scientific and field sessions, evening excursion to the Chęciny castle, hotel and full board, Symposium materials, possible transport Kielce-Chęciny) – ca. 700 PLN = ca. 170 euro

Costs of the Sunday half-day excursion (including lunch) – ca. 60 PLN = ca 15 euro

Cost of the post-Symposium excursion – ca. 600 PLN = ca. 140 euro

Individual calculation of costs in a case of shorter stay or resignation from part of activities/services is possible (see the next, 2<sup>nd</sup> circular).

Payments will be paid via bank transfers to the account which will be provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular.

## **SCIENTIFIC SESSION AND CONFERENCE PUBLICATION**

During the scientific sessions lectures and posters will be presented. All themes connected with exploration, documentation and scientific – geological, geomorphological, biological, archaeological, historical (history of exploration), etc. – studies of non-karst caves, as well as similar pseudokarst landforms are welcome. The language of presentations is English, time length of presentations will depend on their number, but usually it is estimated at 15-20 minutes.

All materials presented during the scientific sessions can be published in the volume of Symposium materials, that include: field session guidebook and papers accepted by the Scientific/Editorial Committee. The proposed length of papers is up to 5 pages A4 of a text (Times New Roman 12pt, line spacing 1,5), i.e. maximum 10 000 characters, including reference list and figures. The text should be sent as a WORD file, whereas figures should be prepared as JPG files of high quality (scanned maps will not be accepted, except for historical materials).

## **FIELD SESSION AND EXCURSIONS**

The main field session on Saturday will include visiting several geo(morpho)logical sites of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains in which crags and non-karst caves occur. The caves are rather short, some of them are narrow but dry and not dirty. Therefore, part of them are easily accessible, while an entry to the others requires light and touristic clothes (typical cave coverall is not necessary for most of them). The access to some sites requires 1-2 km long walk in forest, so touristic shoes are necessary and cape/umbrella could be needed (depending on the weather).

The Thursday evening excursion to the Chęciny town and medieval castle (ca 3 hours) comprise sightseeing of geological outcrops in the ECEG neighbourhood and then walk to the castle and town. Touristic shoes and possibly cape/umbrella (depending on a weather) could be needed.

The Sunday half-day excursion will include visits of historical mining fields (Miedzianka or Góra Żakowa) with open underground galleries/caves and then sightseeing of the Underground Touristic Trail in the Kadzielnia Hill (Kielce) and Geoeducational Centre in Wietrznia (Kielce). Touristic shoes and possibly cape/umbrella could be needed. In underground galleries light and hardhead is necessary.

During the post-Symposium excursion typical gravity induced caves in the Beskid Wyspowy Mountain Group (Mt. Łopień), several hundred metres long, will be explored, therefore typical cave equipment (light, hardhead and coverall, but not rope) and adequate skills are necessary. Shorter but not less interesting non-karst and karst caves will be visited in the Pieniny Mountains. The access to the visited caves requires walks up and downhill (0.5-2 hours). The excursion will be closed at midday/afternoon, 10<sup>th</sup> June in Kraków, therefore Kraków is a convenient place of arrival and departure of this excursion participants. We can also help in an arrangement of longer stay in Kraków.

## VENUE

The Symposium will be held in the European Centre for Geological Education (ECEG) of the University of Warsaw in Chęciny (<https://www.eceg.uw.edu.pl/en/>). The Centre, completed in 2015, is very modern place of scientific meetings and workshop, as well as education on an university level, with conference hall, laboratory and hotel. It is situated within the abandoned quarry on Mt Beylina hillslope, next to the geological nature reserve “Góra Rzepka”, that comprises geological outcrop of the Devonian dolomites with very interesting tectonic, mineralogic and palaeokarst phenomena.



## HOW TO GET TO ECEG/CHĘCINY

Chęciny is small town situated in central Poland, near Kielce city (15 km far from it), a capital of the Świętokrzyskie Province (Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship). It can be easily reached by car from the neighbouring countries, because it is located next to the Kraków-Warszawa road (S-7). The closest international airports are: John Paul II International Airport in Kraków-Balice, and Warsaw Chopin Airport in Warszawa. Transportation from these airports to Kielce can be by public train or bus (2-3 hours trip). Transportation from Kielce to the ECEG in Chęciny, if needed, will be provided by organisers, according to individual arrangements with participants.

Detailed information and connections will be provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular and subsequently, during an individual correspondence with participants.

## REGIONS

The Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains is a geological region situated within the Trans-European Suture Zone (between the European Paleozoic Platform and East-European Craton). It is built of sedimentary rocks representing every periods from Cambrian to Jurassic outcropped in this region, whereas “the rest of the Stratigraphic Table” is accessible in the adjacent Niecka Nidziańska (Nida Basin) region. Two principal geological units are distinguished in this region: Palaeozoic Core strongly tectonically modified during the Variscan Orogenesis (Upper Carboniferous, Lower Permian) and Permian-Mesozoic Marginal Zone, tectonically shaped due to less advanced Alpine movements (Cretaceous-Paleogene transition and Neogene). In morphological terms the region comprises upland of structural relief with single low-mountain (exceeding 600 m a.s.l.) the Łysogóry Range. Pseudokarst caves are spatially and genetically connected with crags built of Upper Cambrian, Lower Devonian, Lower Triassic and Lower Jurassic sandstones. There are ca 50 such caves, but most are short, not longer than 10-15 m. Nevertheless, they represent various genetic types: from gravitational, through erosional to weathering ones, and often differ in shape and relief. Some of these caves and associated crags will be visited during the Symposium field-session. The Świętokrzyskie Mountains are also a region of an occurrence of karst caves and other karst and palaeokarst formations, among which Chelosiowa Jama-Jaskinia Jaworznicka cave system (3670 m long) is the famous one. Historical (abandoned) mines of lead, copper and iron ores are the third type of undergrounds in the region. Karst caves and remnants of historical mines will be visited during the half-day conference excursion (Sunday).

The Beskidy Mountains, the region of the post-conference excursion, represent in geological terms, the Outer Carpathians built of flysch, clastic siliceous-clayey rocks. Morphologically this region comprises intermediate mountains in which numerous gravity induced caves have been formed. The number of these caves ranges in the Polish part of the Outer Carpathian Belt ca 1500, while the longest caves reach ca. 2 km (the longest Jaskinia

Wiślańska is 2275 m long). During the post-Symposium excursion caves situated in the central part of the Beskidy Mountains (Beskid Wyspowy Mountains) as well as some karst and non-karst caves and historical mine galleries in the Pieniny Mountains (in geological terms: Pieniny Klippen Belt) will be visited.

Margielewski W., Urban J. 2017. Gravitationally induced non-karst caves: tectonic and morphological constrains, classification, and dating; Polish Flysch Carpathians, case study. *Geomorphology* 296: 160-181.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169555X17303240?via%3Dihub>

Urban J., Gągor J. 2008. Geological heritage of the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mts, Central Poland. *Przegląd Geologiczny* 56, 8/1: 618-628.

[https://www.pgi.gov.pl/images/stories/przegląd/pg\\_2008\\_08\\_01\\_12.pdf](https://www.pgi.gov.pl/images/stories/przegląd/pg_2008_08_01_12.pdf)

## **ORGANISERS**

UIS Pseudokarst Commission

Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków

Świętokrzyski Speleoclub, Kielce

Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute

Świętokrzyski Geopark

## **SCIENTIFIC/EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Rudolf Pavuza

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