

Registry number:	1807
<input type="checkbox"/> The cave is not registered	
Document designation (Leave blank!)	



The form was prepared in collaboration between the Speleological Association of Slovenia and the Karst Research Institute ZRC-SAZU in 2002.

Record number:	
Date of visit:	2. 8. and 13. 8. 2003
Date of record:	15. 8. 2003

Principal record

CAVE NAME: *Bezgovka*

Organization: JK Novo mesto Author: Borivoj Ladišič
Municipality: Črnomelj Landowner: _____
Geographical location: Karst plain of Bela Krajina
Nearest settlement: Cerkvišče Access starting point: Griblje

Access:

Starting from the village of Griblje on the banks of the Kolpa river, follow the metalled road towards Črnomelj. The road runs due west among fields and meadows. After two kilometres the edge of a forest is reached. At this point there is a right turn towards the village of Cerkvišče. Follow the main metalled road towards the west, i.e. towards Črnomelj, for a further kilometre through the forest, noting on the left side a World War II monument in the shape of an irregular polygon. Then follow the road for yet another 80m, to where there is a left turning onto a south-bound forest track. Do not follow this track as it misses the cave by about 100m. About 120m past the monument there is another left turning onto another forest track. Follow this (second) track towards the south for a little under 150m, to where there is a right turning. Follow the track to the right, which runs parallel to the first track, for about 240m. Here there is a small, more than 10m-deep doline on the left side of the track. The entrance to the cave is easily visible at the bottom of the doline.

Bearings: 1.: _____ at _____ 2.: _____ at _____
3.: _____ at _____ 4.: _____ at _____

Details of map extract (map type, scale, number, date/edition): TK 25, Griblje, 031-4-3, 1:25.000, 1988

	Cave type: 4.2 – cave with permanent flow																
	Gauss-Krüger coordinates (mandatory!): ▶ <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr></table> ▲ <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	5	5	1	9	5	9	9	5	0	4	7	0	7	0		
	5	5	1	9	5	9	9										
	5	0	4	7	0	7	0										
	based on: map TTN 5 (1986) and GPS Garmin etrex																
	GPS coordinates – WGS 84 [° ° / ' ' / " " , " "] ▶ <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>3</td></tr></table> ▲ <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; text-align: center;"><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	1	5	1	5	0	4	0	3	4	5	3	4	0	4	3	4
	1	5	1	5	0	4	0	3									
	4	5	3	4	0	4	3	4									
	Entrance altitude: 145m on: TTN 5 and GPS																
	Polygon length: 108m Passage length: 92,2m																
Horizontal length: 92m Vertical range: -1,5m																	
Entrance dimensions: 0,6 x 1,8 m Entrance pit: /																	
Internal pits: /																	
Siphons: inlet and outlet siphon, unexplored																	

Cave morphology

Immediate surroundings:

The cave opens from the bottom of a small, but at least 10m-deep doline, in the forest. The mixed forest is mid-dense or dense, predominantly deciduous. In some places there is plenty of undergrowth, so that during the growing season movement away from the track is very difficult. In places where there is no undergrowth, the forest is clear and easy passable. There are bowl-shaped dolines, and some that are bigger and deeper. There are few rocks visible either on the surface or in the dolines, Only two or three bigger rocks are apparent.

Entrance and entrance passage(s):

The entrance is on a clearly visible joint at the bottom of a doline and is of conical shape. The entrance hole is 60cm wide at its base, has a height of 1.8m and narrows down to 10cm at the top. Beyond the entrance the continuing passage is of the same shape and dimensions as the entrance itself. The entrance passage follows a joint on a bearing of 13°, and is 6.1m long. Directly inside the entrance the floor is covered by earth and leaves, which fall in from the entrance; further on the floor is stony. At the end, the passage narrows and ends in a buried tectonic joint (point 2) some 20cm wide. The joint is filled with debris: stones, gravel and some clay

Internal passage(s):

From the entrance passage there is link towards the east (bearing 60°) into an active water passage (point 3). Under the low ceiling, at this point only 30cm high, descend for 0.5m and 1.5 forward into a 4×4m wide but low chamber. The chamber height is only 30 to 50cm. On the floor there are breakdown stones. On a previous visit (22. 3. 2003) further penetration into the cave was prevented by water running over the bottom of the chamber in a 3m-wide cascade..

After a lengthy dry period, as expected, on 2. 8. 2003 there was no water flow. However, the inlet siphon under the southeastern wall of the chamber was full of water and active. The inlet siphon lake is of about 2×1m in size. The water is clear and there is a clearly visible underwater inlet passage, only about 25 to 30cm high and continuing. The flow is about 0.5l/s. The water sinks among the breakdown stones into a shallow stream bed, before flowing deeper into the cave. Another passage leads from the chamber, but the opening is difficult to pass, due to the low ceiling and breakdown material on the floor. Further on, the passage is about 4m wide and 0.5 to 1m high, with clay and gravel on the floor. There is an interesting chimney in the ceiling (cross section E-F), about 3m high and closing under the overlying rock beds. At this point there is a small water-filled basin below the eastern wall of the passage. Water flow towards the stream is barely noticeable in the clay riverbed. At 23m from the cave entrance the water fills the passage completely (point 5).

On the next visit on 13.8. the water passage was re-examined with the explorer wearing a neoprene suit. Water conditions were the same as during the previous visit, with a flow of 0.5l/s. The ceiling height from point 5 onward is 30 to 50cm, water depth is up to 40cm, with a stream bed of sand and gravel. Water covers the entire passage floor, except that there is an island of sand at point 6, and a little further on the left bank is covered with sand and gravel. At 27m from point 5 the ceiling rises sharply to a height of about 2m allowing comfortably walking. The water passage is 35m long, and at point 7 a rocky floor begins; at this point the passage makes a right angle turn towards the southwest (310°). The stream descends in gentle cascades (at the time of the visit) over a rocky bed for a few tens of centimetres into the second lake (points 8, 9 and 10). In the end section (from point 7 onwards) the walls and the ceiling are fretted by corrosion and eroded rock blades are present. At point 11 another passage leads upwards. Its floor is covered by deep clay deposits, which bury a possible continuation of the passage (point 13). The second lake is 14.5m long and 60cm deep. At the end the ceiling descends below the water level. Further on there is probably an outlet siphon, but it is not visible due to the low ceiling at the end of the cave.

Cave sediments, interesting features and forms:

There is no calcite speleothem in the cave. On the floor of the entrance passage there is earth coming in from the entrance and stones. The walls in the entrance passage are corroded. In the shallow chamber there is breakdown material on the floor and further on there is clay, sand and gravel. Inside the cave there is an active waterflow. Faceted surfaces are visible from the entrance to the end of the cave, formed on the ceiling, the walls and on the breakdown stones. In the farthest part of the cave there are many eroded rock blades, and there is much water-deposited clay in the side passages

Scientific data

Geological:

According to the General Geological Map (OGK), plate Črnomelj, 1: 100,000, there are Cretaceous limestones, covered by terra rossa. The cave's entrance is in the floor of a doline, inside a longer dry valley. The valley can be traced on topographic maps 1:25,000 (TK 25) and 1:5000 (TTN). It lies in a forest, which partly conceals its shape. The valley runs from the south to the north and ends at the river Lahinja, where there are two riverbank springs marked on the map. The valley follows a joint, marked on the OGK, which is clearly visible at the entrance of the cave as well as in the entrance passage.

Hydrological: There is an underground stream flowing through the cave, and it is supposed that the sinking water follows the joint towards the Lahinja river. No drips were noticed during the visit. The temperature of the underground stream was 10.4°C, measured at point 5 during the visit of 13. 8. The flows depend on the season and rainfall. During the visit on March 2003, there was a strong flow from the inlet siphon to the interior of the cave in 3m-wide cascades. During the August 2003 visit, the water flow was barely noticeable (0.5l/s). In the entrance passage it flowed on a narrow bed between the breakdown stones. Between points 4 and 5 there is a minor tributary from a rocky basin with a small lake; its flow was also barely noticeable. During high water levels a visit to the cave is not possible. A local, Ivan Kralj, said that in exceptionally high water conditions the whole doline becomes water-filled. According to the source quoted, this phenomenon was last seen twenty years ago.

Meteorological:

The air in the cave was normal. No droughts were felt. The air temperature at point 5 was 11.6°C, measured on 13.8. At that time the outside temperature was 31°C. In the winter time icicles form at the entrance.

Biological:

Not observed. Some spiders and flies were noticed on the walls of the entrance passage.

Archaeological:

Many fragments of ceramics and the bottom of a small clay pot were found at point 5. On the sand floor of the entrance passage between points 5 and 7 were the broken halves (lower part of the pot with bottom) of clay pots. One of these was taken out of the cave. On a rock ledge at the end of the cave, less than a metre above the water table, there was a nice, black clay pot, broken only in the upper part. The pot was filled with small pebbles and sand. This one was taken out as well. The ceramics were examined by Danilo Breščak from the ZRSVN, Novo mesto. He believes the pots are from the 17th or 18th century.

Economic:

Unimportant today. The local, Ivan Kralj told me that people from nearby villages used to go into the cave for water. He also told me, that the water was collected only in the entrance part, i.e. in the inlet siphon, and never in the deeper parts of the cave, which are difficult to access, requiring crawling on the stomach for the first 8 metres over rocky ground.

In this year's extreme summer drought (some call it the "drought of the century") the water flow in the cave was still active and the inlet siphon full of clear water. So, it is logical that the natives collected water only in the entrance part, and not in the internal parts. So, who left the clay pot on the rocky ledge inside the cave? And why?

Pollution and other human impacts:

The cave is clean.

History:

In the Cave Registry there is a record by Boris Sket with only some basic data about the cave. He made a rough sketch, from which it is not apparent that this is a water cave. He estimated its length at only 35m.

The local, Ivan Kralj, a hunter, he said that he has never heard of anyone among the local population going into the cave, either to collect water or just for a visit. He said the Gypsies took shelter in it several times. He also showed the cave to Andrej Hudoklin from ZRSVN, Novo mesto, where they were looking for the great owl, which at that time did not appear.

Origin of cave name:

Exists already. In any case it is a local name. Local hunter Ivan Kralj did not know, what it means.

Technical difficulty and equipment required:

Technical estimate: Tv 2 (the estimate for the siphons is left to the divers).

Technical grade: II-III.

For negotiating the water passage a neoprene suit is necessary; diving gear will be needed for the siphons..

Recommended research:

Explore the inlet and outlet siphons. The prospects for the exploration of the inlet siphon are limited due to the low ceiling height.

Notes and personal impressions:

The local man, Ivan Kralj also told me that there was a similar entrance to a cave in the dry valley some 200m south from Bezgovka. It became buried, at the time that the current entrance in Bezgovka opened up. I tried to find this old entrance but I gave up quickly because of dense bushes and undergrowth. I noticed unrecognizable inscriptions of visitors on the clay heap between points 4 and 5, and in the clay near point 8.

The cave is marked on the maps TTN, TK-25 and Atlas Slovenije. The location on all the maps is wrong. The actual location is more than 100m to the west. Therefore I spent a lot of time trying to find the cave.

There are photographs added to his record.

References: There are no references to the cave in the literature.

Participants: Irena Podbevšek, Borivoj Ladišič

Measured by: Borivoj Ladišič

Position determined by: Borivoj Ladišič

Photographs by: Borivoj Ladišič

Samples collected by: Borivoj Ladišič

Measuring equipment used: Compass and Silva inclinometer, metre tape

Novo mesto, on 18. 8. 2003

(stamp)

Borivoj Ladišič

(signature)