

THE PSEUDOSCORPIONS OF DOBROGEA: FROM ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT AND PERSPECTIVES

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The Mediterranean region is the vast intercontinental zone comprising the Mediterranean Sea which separates two great blocks of the Ancient World, the Eurasiatic and the Indoafrikan, and is situated at the meeting-point of the two climatic and biogeographic zones. There are many particular zones which distinguished the Mediterranean region from the continental masses surrounding it. First of all, the zone contains a great mass of mesozoic sediments accumulated in the depression of the ancient Tethys and where the calcareous sediments largely predominate. It is the zone of the great Alpine Orogeny which gave birth to the mountain chains encircling the Inner Sea: The Pyrenees, the Alps, the Carpathians, the Balkans, the Caucasus at the north; the Riff and the Atlas, the Apennines and the Dinaro-Tauric Arc at the south. It has therefore been an unstable and disturbed zone from remote ages up to our time. Its geological history is full of varied and violent events which followed one another without interruption, especially during the Tertiary, forming a tormented relief full of contrasts, with a great variety of morphological and architectural shapes. The Mediterranean is a zone of great faultings. It is due to these faultings also that the Mediterranean relief is so broken, with the general configuration of the coasts extremely chiselled in parts, and with a high degree of intimate interpenetration of sea and land such as is rarely witnessed elsewhere. To this should be added the effect of erosion which has scooped out deep furrows, sculptured the protrusions and is manifesting itself, on calcareous ground, also in the special forms of the karstic relief.

Situated in the eastern part of the Mediterranean region and occupying the area between the Adriatic Sea at the west and the Black Sea at the east, the Balkan Peninsula faces Asia Minor, with which it formed, till in the Pleistocene, an uninterrupted continental mass (ancient Aegeis). Nowhere else in the Mediterranean region is the relief of the land more complicated than in the Balkan Peninsula. Several great geotectonic units exist there: first, the great range of Rhodopes mountains should be distinguished as the ancient crystalline nucleus of the Hercynian age. This resistant nucleus of the Peninsula, formed mainly of crystalline schists with intrusions of eruptive rocks, has been greatly broken and disrupted by faultings in a number of depressions and isolated blocks some of which reach 2,900 m in altitude and represent the highest summits of the Peninsula. The