

FIRST NOTE ON THE INVERTEBRATE FAUNA OF CAVES FROM THE PIATRA CRAIULUI NATIONAL PARK*

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A faunal list including 104 invertebrate species occurred in 22 caves from the Piatra Craiului National Park is given. Among the identified species *Deuteraphorura traiani* Gruia et Popa, 2005 (Collembola) is an endemic species recently described, *Ameroseius insignis* Bernardh, 1963 (Acari) is for the first time recorded in the Romanian fauna and *Dermestes (Montandonia) latissima* (Bielz, 1852) (Coleoptera, Dermestidae) is a very rare endemic species in the Meridional Carpathians. Six species are troglobiont forms, and 31 are known as troglophilous or subtroglophilous. New data concerning the occurrence of the endemic species *Duvalius deubelianus* Csiki, 1903 (Coleoptera, Carabidae) in caves are presented

1. INTRODUCTION

The Piatra Craiului National Park has an area of 14,774 ha (over 1/3 of it on limestone) and includes three geographic units: the Rucăr-Zărnești Passage (to W), the Piatra Craiului Ridge (in the central area) and the Rucăr-Bran Passage (to E). Up to now 836 caves were inventoried, over 85% of them being small or very small (between 5 and 20 m length), 8 caves have over 100 m development and only two exceed 500 m. (Avenul de sub Vârful Grind – 560 meters and Peștera de la Colțul Surpat or Peștera Urșilor – 540 meters). In Table 1 is presented the repartition of caves on specific zones according to the *Catalogue of Caves from Piatra Craiului National Park* (T. Constantinescu, 2004 in manuscript).

Up to present only isolated data on the invertebrate species occurred in caves of the Piatra Craiului Massif are available in few papers (DUMITRESCU, 1979, GRUNER et TABACARU, 1963, GIURGINCA & NAE, 2004), other papers referring to the endogenous species on this area (DECOU et NEGREA, 1969). Our study is the first note on the invertebrate fauna occurred in the caves of the Piatra Craiului National Park.

2. MATERIALES AND METHODS

During the period 2002–2004, 22 natural and artificial cavities have been investigated: 6 situated in northern part of the area and 15 in the southern one

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