

# SPECIFICITY OF THE NORTHERN VELEBIT SPELEONYMY

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## ABSTRACT

Based on archival research and reference literature, the paper presents a toponymic treatment of the speleonymy of northern Velebit. Special attention is paid to the names coined at the end of the 20th century, when, following a strong interest in speleological research in this area, especially after the discovery of *Lukina jama* at *Hajdučki kukovi* in 1992, extensive speleological research was conducted by Slovak and Polish, Hungarian, Belgian, Dutch and Lithuanian speleologists. The findings led to the discovery of hundreds of Velebit pits, for which the researchers provided names characterized by motivational, structural and linguistic features that do not belong to the traditional geographical nomenclature of Velebit karst, or local cultural patterns and idioms that constitute the basis for older Velebit speleonymy.

## KEYWORDS:

*northern Velebit, speleonymy, speleological objects, naming, standardization*

## INTRODUCTION

Northern Velebit is one of the four Velebit geographical units formed along a transverse line, and extends from the *Vratnik* pass<sup>1</sup> (698m) to the *Veliki Alan* pass (1414m)<sup>2</sup>. The remaining Velebit settlements *Stolac*, *Krasno*, *Oltari*, *Kuterevo*, *Donji* and *Gornji Kosinj* and *Kosinjski Bakovac* are located in this area<sup>3</sup>, with a large number of mountain slopes. The highest peak in the area is *Mali Rajinac* (1699m), and the *Hajdučki* and *Rožanski kukovi* stand out for their beauty, in an area abounding in speleological objects, among which pits of exceptional morphology and depth with numerous underground siphons and lakes predominate.

The Lika Dinaric karst area, rich in caves, pits and chasms, has long attracted mountaineers, travel writers, geographers, geologists and lovers of natural heritage, which is why the first data on Lika's caves can be found in the works of older travel writers and naturalists from the late 17th century (J. W. Valvasor, 1689), and the initial information about several of them was provided by F. J. Fras in *Topografija Karlovačke vojne krajine* in 1835, and by V. Klaić in *Prirodni zemljopis Hrvatske* in 1878. D. Hirc published several papers mentioning Lika's caves, and a significant impetus to the speleological research of Lika came from the *Odbor za istraživanje špilja Geološkog povjerenstva za Kraljevinu Hrvatsku i Slavoniju* (1910-1914).

Interrupted by the two world wars, the research of speleological objects in the Lika area was resumed in the 1950s, as part of JAZU projects and activities of numerous speleological and mountaineering groups. (Malez 1962). In the mountaineering magazine *Naše planine*, the *Popis špilja i ponora u Hrvatskoj* by Vlado Redenšek was published in several sequels in 1957. Caves and chasms are listed by settlements or mountains in which they are located, with additional information on the type, spatial location and other important information available to the author. For his list of Lika's caves and chasms, the author also used the list published in the *Vijesti Geološkog povjerenstva*, which was based on a questionnaire that

<sup>1</sup> The mountain range from Vratnik to Krasna is also called Senjsko bilo. In the mountaineering literature from the beginning of the 20th century (*Planinarski vjesnik*), the authors point out that the locals distinguish between Northern Velebit and Senjsko bilo, regarding Senjsko bilo as a separate mountain.

<sup>2</sup> The middle Velebit stretches between *Veliki Alan* and *Baške Oštarije*, the southern between *Baške Oštarije* and *Mali Alan*, and the south-eastern between *Mali Alan* and the valley of the upper Zrmanja river.

<sup>3</sup> The part of northern Velebit between *Borov vrh*, *Markov kuk* and *Babić siče* in the north, and *Zečjak* and *Štirovača* in the south, an area covering 109 km<sup>2</sup>, was declared the *Northern Velebit National Park* on 9 June 1999.

the *Geološki paleontološki zavod* sent to the municipal governments in Lika and Krbava in 1913<sup>4</sup>. The author notes that the names of caves and chasms are scattered throughout the “extensive literature” (...). I collected many names among the local people, and I entered the names of caverns or caves as I heard them. (...) Many caverns have several names or titles, while some have been distorted by transcription, and such synonyms should therefore be reduced to the real name. That is how *Amidžina pećina* in Perušić came to be called “*Omišla pećina*” in the literature, although no one there knows about it. (...) The lower cave of Cerovac was named after engineer Turkalj and it is called the *Mramor pećina*, although the locals know it as the cave on the *Kesića cliff*, etc.” (Redenšek 1957 3-5: 125).

The discovery of *Lukina jama* in northern Velebit in 1992 encouraged extensive speleological research of the area, which was conducted by speleological societies from Croatia and abroad, which, in addition to professional speleological activities in the field, influenced the naming of numerous Velebit speleological objects. (Mataija 2019).

This research includes 493 speleonyms, excerpted from the database of the Northern Velebit National Park, the Cadastre of Speleological Objects of the Republic of Croatia, and available mountaineering, travel and speleological literature and forest maps.

## MOTIVATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF SPELEONYMS

In this paper, the speleonymic material of northern Velebit is classified according to the system of motivational classification of toponyms, which was designed for the needs of the scientific project *Onomastička i etimologijska istraživanja hrvatskoga jezika* of the Institute of Croatian Language and Linguistics, whereas Domagoj Vidović's monography *Zažapska toponimija* (2014) was used as a methodological basis to process the material toponymically.

The peculiarities of speleonyms, as special toponymic categories, and the specific motivational environment in which the youngest speleonymy of northern Velebit was created, were reflected in the sheer number of classification groups, imposing the need to refine and adapt the already established and accepted classification system. New categories of motives behind the naming primarily relate

<sup>4</sup> The county district in Gospić then submitted data on 151 caves in the area of Lika and Krbava, so a list of 218 caverns was published in *Vijesti*.

to the elements of popular culture and the emotional mood of the denominator, which obviously represent a very important and frequent influence on the modern speleonymy of northern Velebit. It is further broken down into a group of names of obscure origin or motivation, which are very well represented in the corpus of the northern Velebit speleonymy, imposing the need for a different approach to their classification due to a large number of speleonyms of foreign origin, especially those from Slovak

In addition to speleonyms, abbreviations of a narrower or wider area are adopted in order to pinpoint a location and contextualize the naming, and these include:

AD = Apatišanska duliba

BA = Babrovača

BE = Begovača

BK = Begovački kuk

BO = Bovan

BU = Budim

BV = Borovi vrh

CR = Crikvena

GK = Gornji kuk

GO = Golubić

GR = Grabovo rame

HK = Hajdučki kukovi

JA = Japage

JP = Jovanovića padež

JU = Jurekovac

KL = Klada

KD = Klepina duliba

KG = Kita Gavranuša

KK = Kugina kuća

KrK = Krajačev kuk

KR = Krasno

KS = Klenove Seline

LD = Lomska duliba

LU = Lubenovac

LjB = Ljubečko brdo

LjU = Ljubežnica

ME = Melnica

MK = Mali kuk

MKo = Mali Kozjak

MR = Mali Rajinac

RD = Rončević dolac

RK = Rožanski kukovi

SD = Smrčeve doline

ST = Studenci

ŠT = Štirovača

TA = Tadijevci

TU = Tuževac

VA = Varnjača

VB = Velike Brisnice

VK = Vratarski kuk

VKo = Veliki Kozjak

VU = Vučjak

ZA = Zavižan

## 1. *Speleonyms motivated by geomorphological features of a geographical object*

### 1.1. *Geographical names in speleonymy (toponymic appellations and derivatives)*

#### 1.1.1 *Reflections of toponymic names:*

*Buža* (HK), *Jama 2* (HK), *Jama 3* (HK), *Jama 3A* (HK), *Jama 4* (HK), *Jama 5* (HK), *Jama 6A* (HK), *Jama VI* (HK), *Jama 7* (HK), *Jama 9* (HK), *Jama 10* (HK), *Jama 11* (HK), *Jama 13* (HK), *Jama 13A* (HK), *Jama 14* (HK), *Jama 15A* (HK), *Jama 16* (HK), *20 jama* (HK), *Jama 22<sup>5</sup>* (KR), *Jama 31* (HK), *Jama 32* (HK), *Jama 33 B* (HK), *Jama 33* (HK), *Jama 33A* (HK), *Jama 33C* (HK), *8 jama* (HK), *8A jama* (HK), *8 B jama* (HK), *8 C jama* (HK), *Jama PTL1*, *Jama PP2*, *Jama SOV 27<sup>6</sup>* (HK), *Jama SOV 39* (GK), *Jamurina* (BK), *Japaga*, *Japagina* (JA), *Japaga jama* (BA), *Pećina I* (LjB), *Pećina II* (LjB), *Špilja meandar* (KG), V1 (VU).

In the group of speleonyms which includes toponymic appellatives and their derivatives, the appellation *jama* (pit) is overrepresented, which is very frequent in naming deep cavities in karst soil, and it is widespread in the Slavic south, east and west in that same form<sup>7</sup>. This group also includes the names created by toponymization of other appellatives related to the morphology of the *japaga* karst: “deep pit between rocks”, *pećina*, *špilja* and *meandar*.

In the older Lika speleonymy, the appellative *cave* is much more frequent than the *špiljal/špilja* appellation, as evidenced by the results of limited field research<sup>8</sup>, but also by ethnographic, historiographical and geographical literature and dicti-

<sup>5</sup> Many pits in the area of northern Velebit have been named after the toponymized appellation, to which a number or a letter has been added for the purposes of distinction. For example, in the area of *Apatišanska duliba* and *Lubenovac*, speleologists named the discovered pits “after the forest departments in which they are located” (Ostojić 1997: 22). This is how the names like *Jama 22* were coined.

<sup>6</sup> In the area of *Hajdučki kukovi*, several pits were named by combining letters and numbers, such as *Jama SOV 27*, *Jama SOV 28*,... *Jama SOV 42*. In the area of *Vučjak*, some speleological objects were also named by using alphanumeric designations of the type V1, V2, which also applies to the area of *Begovača B10*,... *B32*, *Begovački kuk BK3*, ... *BK 8* and *Golubića LU4EK*.

<sup>7</sup> Speleologists define a cave as a speleological phenomenon with a vertical channel, if the average slope of the channel is greater than 45 degrees (*speleologija.hr*). In Slovak, for example, the words “priepas; jama, šachta, baňa” are used for a pit (Takač 1999: 120).

<sup>8</sup> Among the surveyed respondents of different age and educational structures in the area of *Perušić*, in everyday speech the appellative *pećina* is much more frequent than the appellative *špilja*, and the same applies to the appellative *jama* in relation to *pećina* and *špilja*. However, the results of a comparative analysis of speleonyms in the official records of the *JU pećinski park Grabovača* in the same area suggest different relations. “Among the 30 official speleonyms of the *JU pećinski park Grabovača*, there are only two examples (*Kavžine pećine* and *Marasova pećina*) with the appellation *pećina*, and 22 examples with the appellation *špilja*.” (Mataija 2019: 397).

onaries of native Lika dialects.

In *Zbornik za narodni život i običaje Južnih Slavena* from 1917, Radoslav M. Grujić published *Topografski rječnik gopšćkoga kotare*, in which he also recorded speleonyms, including the appellatives *jama* and *pećina*, while the form *špiljal spilja* is not listed. In Karl Patsch's book *Lika u rimsko doba*, originally published in Vienna in 1900 in German, translated by Zlata Derossi and then published in the *Lička župa* library in 1990 in Gospić, the translator uses the appellatives *pećina* and *špiljalspilja*: "In some of the many caves in the Drežnica area (...)" (Patch 1990: 40); "Mamulina pećina, a complex of caverns, located between Pećani and Jošani, merits a more accurate and thorough research (...)" (Patch 1990:41)

Describing Lika and the Plitvice Lakes in 1900, Dragutin Hirc also describes Lika's caves by using the appellatives *pećina* and *spilja*<sup>9</sup>.

Marko Čuljat's *Dictionary of the Lika Ikavica* does not include the appellations *pećina*, *špiljalspilja*, *ponor*, *jama*, but introduces the forms „jàmeta f deep karst sinkhole, jàpaga f 1. deep pit in the forest 2. deep steep pit (Dunj., L. Novi)" (Čuljat 2004: 104)

In *Lička štokavska ikavica*, Ivan Milković records forms *pèćinal/pèćna* f, *pèćinē*, pl G *pèćinā* /*pèćinā* = a large stone underground cavity with several compartments, full of limestone forms, sometimes with water (Milković 2009: 264), but also *špilja*, stating that the word is of Greek origin and that it is used by younger generations, born after 1970. Milković also notes the appellative "jàmpaga > jàpaga" (Milković 2009:125), in the sense of a deep narrow bay or large pit, but does not record the basic shape of the pit. For chasm, he notes the form "pùnor" (Milković 2009: 348), as well as the Ikavian variant of the *snježnica* "snížnica" (Milković 2009: 389), denoting water produced by melting snow and a cave in which snow stays for a long time. "U snížnicama i liti ima sniga." (Milković 2009: 389).

*Ričnik gacke čakavščine, konpoljski divan* by Milan Kranjčević notes the appellatives *pećina* and *špilja*: "pećina ž [G mn pećin] pećina, spilja" (Kranjčević 2003: 609), "špilja f [G pl špilj]" , meaning cavern, a natural cavity in the rock of a vertical opening or a neglected dwelling" (Kranjčević 2003:977).

<sup>9</sup> "We also approached the stream of Jadova, whose stone bed was completely dry; Jadova was affected by a drought like some streams in Primorje and Gorski Kotar. Its shores are also rocky here and there, with various rocks and caves scattered across the field, overgrown with rare shrubs, mostly hazel." (Hirc 1900: 70) "Whoever wishes to visit the Plitvice Lakes from Ogulin, we highly recommend that they return via Slunj, and that along the way they visit the famous cave near Rastovača, which was described in 1890 by the civil technician Franjo Poici." (Hirc 1900: 141)

In the Etymological Dictionary of the Croatian or Serbian Language (1972) Petar Skok derives the appellative *pećina* (cave) from ie., baltosl., svesl. and prasl. \*pekti > peći. “From the cultural-historical point of view, the development of ›furnus > pećina«. This can be explained by the fact that in the Proto-Slavic era baking was performed by fire in caves.” (Skok 1972: 629) In the area of the Plitvice Lakes, the lexeme *peć* was recorded in the two-member speleonymy *Vilina peć*. The diminutive *Pećinica* has also been reported.

Špilja/špilja < grč. spēlaion. According to Skok, “a word from the Greek language which replaced slav. peć = stcslav. Pešťъ, preserved in the word peć *pećina*, a common toponym. In Dalmatia, words of Greek origin must have already existed in the Dalmatian-Romanic language” (Skok 1972:311). The diminutive *Špiljica* has also been recorded in Lika.

But in modern speleonymy, the appellative *cavern* is much more frequent as a regular second member of the toponymic syntagm. These changes are also motivated by modern speleological terminology, which does not recognize the term *pećina* (cave), but exclusively *špilja* (cavern)<sup>10</sup>.

In most cases, the appellative *meander* (lat. meander “winding riverbed”) belongs to a group of geographical terms, with rare toponymic reflections exclusively in hydronymy, whereas in speleonymy it obviously denotes a winding speleological object. It is an appellative taken over from scientific terminology and has not been recorded in folklore.

The appellative *buža* (<mlet. busa, tal. bugio “hole, opening”) is characteristic of Dalmatian Štokavian and Čakavian native dialects.

<sup>10</sup> Vlado Božić (2008) points out: “The oldest word in Croatia that means cavern is therefore “Pechice, Pechie, Pechicze”, i.e., cave. Today, the word cavern should be used in the Croatian standard language. The word cave has Slavic roots, and the word cavern is of Greek-Latin (speilaion, spelunca) origin. Obviously, the word cave was brought to Croatia with the arrival of Croats, i.e., in the 7th century, while the word cavern must have come much earlier, i.e., with the arrival of the Greeks and Romans. Unfortunately, there are no written documents about that, except for toponyms in southern Dalmatia. In the Croatian language, as an abbreviation of the word “pećina” (cave), people still use the word “peć”, which we find as a toponym in Hrvatsko zagorje, Hrvatsko primorje and northern Dalmatia.” (Božić, <http://speleologija.eu/clanci/hrv/pecica.html>). In the Dictionary of Differences between Croatian and Serbian, the appellative cave is marked as Serbian, with a notation stating that in Croatian the same appellative has a different meaning related to depressions in rocks and cliffs. An entry on the caverns in the Croatian Encyclopaedia points to the same semantic level.

### 1.1.2 Toponymic metaphors:

*Dječja jama*, *Čakovača* (TU), *Čarapa* (HK), *Čep jama*, *Čikobernica* (HK), *Dobra špajza* (KG), *Grančica 1*(GO), *Grančica 2* (GO), *Jama ložnica* (KR), *Nedam*<sup>11</sup> (HK), *Jama pod dugama* (HK), *Jama pod kišnim slapom* (MK), *Jama svetinja* (KR), *Jama Šlapice* (JA), *Jurišna jama* (RK), *Kameni cvijet* (BK), *Krvavo koleno* (BE), *Kruna mog života jama*, *Krvava jama* (MK), *Laka meta*, *Lakat pećnica* (RK), *Lom* (GO), *Ljepotica* (KG), *Mrtvački znoj* (TA), *Nebeska kuka*, *Nebeska vrata* (RK), *Nemirna jama* (GO), *Neviđena*, *Olovkina jama* (BE), *Pukla* (HK), *Rida napast jama*, *Runtača* (ŠT), *Spora jama* (BE), *Školjka*, *Šumski kotao*, *Tajna odaja* (KG), *Trogrla žderavica* (KR), *Večernja jama* (HK), *Vulkan* (VKo), *Zabluda jama*, *Živan* (BK).

Vidović (2014) states that the sources of toponymic metaphors are very diverse, emphasizing objects and devices that are used every day, devices and objects for fetching water, objects used in agriculture, those used in defence against intruders, items previously or still used in the household, food products, items related to domestic animals, types of weapons, maritime transport and shipbuilding, construction, religious symbols and “metaphors for parts of the human (...) and animal body.” (Vidović 2014: 223–224). In addition to the above sources inherent in historical and contemporary Croatian toponymy, examples from the northern Velebit speleonymy testify to new, so far less common, incentives for coining names that stem from various semantic nests of contemporary popular culture and slang phraseology discourse. This is evidenced by examples such as *Kameni cvijet*, *Mrtvački znoj*, *Trogrla žderavica* etc. which, if standardization of speleonyms remains at the current level, will retain local recognisability and the recognisability of the period of discovery of speleological objects and their naming, but will not reflect either the continuity and peculiarities of historical and contemporary Croatian toponymy before the early 1990s, or the cultural environment and linguistic features of the local population.

<sup>11</sup> The *Nedam jama* / *Jama nedam* variant is entered in the list of the Northern Velebit National Park. This pit, discovered in 1997 in the south-eastern part of Hajdučki kukovi, is the third deepest pit in Croatia, with a depth of 1,226 m. “The pit was named Nedam after an event that took place in 1998 in the pit itself. Since the pit consists of very narrow and almost impassable canals, at a depth of 315 meters a speleologist got stuck in the narrowing of the meander, from which he could no longer get out on his own. Colleagues who found themselves in the pit helped him get out. Rescuing him lasted a full three hours. The pit was named Nedam after that event because speleologists realized that the cave did not allow further progress.” (<https://np-sjeverni-velebit.hr/www/hr/priroda-i-kulturna-ba%C5%A1tina/neziva-priroda-2/speleologija/najpoznatije-jame-nacionalnog-parka-sje>)



## ***1.2. Speleonyms with respect to arrangement, shape and appearance (of soil or water)***

### *1.2.1 Speleonyms defined by the location of the geographical object:*

*Jama u šumi na pločama (JU).*

### *1.2.2 Speleonyms denoting the shape and surface properties of soil (direct and metaphorical):*

*Crvena škrapa (KR), Duet jama<sup>12</sup>, Dugačka jama (KR), Duple jame (HK), Dvojama (HK), Jama pukotina (BA), Jama s tri ulaza<sup>13</sup> (RA), Jama Vrtilica (RK), Mala (KrK), Nepristupačna (RK), Osmulja (RK), Prosjeda jama (GO), Rida propast, Solo jama, Spaljani meandar (HK), Šuplji dolac<sup>14</sup> (KR), Trojama (HK), Veliki meandar (HK), Zelena jama (RK).*

### *1.2.3 Speleonyms related to the composition and characteristics of soil or water:*

*Krljava jama, Ledenica (ST), Mala ledenica (HK), Mramornica snježnica (KR), Punoleda (RK), Rujna jama (HK), Vodena stijena, Prdara 1 (RK), Prdara 2 (RK), Snježnica (ME), Srkić.*

### *1.2.4 Speleonyms determined by the position/relation to other toponyms (relational toponyms):*

*Bezdanica u šumi Paljež (KR), Bezdan u Krasanjskoj dulibi (KR), Druge škrape (HK), Jama ispod Male paljevine (KR), Jama iz drugog kuta (RK), Jama iznad Kugine kuće (KK), Jama iznad Malog loma (KR), Jama kod Dundović padeža (KR), Jama kod Lubenovca (KR), Jama kod Modrić doca (RK), Jama kod Sekičeve krčevine (KR), Jama kraj orlove snježnice (VKo), Jama na Biljevinama (KR), Jama na cesti Jelovac (KR), Jama na Čuki (KR), Jama na Dugačkoj plasi (KR), Jama na Kozarici (KS), Jama na Pločama (HK), Jama na Razvali (ME), Jama na Stražbenici (KR), Jama na Vrančinici (VB), Jama na vrhu Golubića (GO), Jama pod Bilim kukom*

<sup>12</sup> A variant *Jama Duet* was recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>13</sup> A variant *Jama s tri otvora* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>14</sup> A variant *Snježnica šuplji dolac* was also recorded in the cadastre.

(KR), *Jama pod Gregovicom* (KR), *Jama pod Kukom* (KR), *Jama pod Liscem* (KK), *Jama pod Oštro* (RD), *Jama pod Rasovcem* (KR), *Jama pod Velikim Zavižanom* (ZA), *Jama pod Zavižanom* (ZA), *Jama pored Nemirne* (GO), *Jama pored staze za Mali Rajinac* (MR), *Jama 19 iznad Trojame* (HK), *Jama u Kuku* (BA), *Jama u Mačjoj glavi* (ME), *Jama u Piskulji* (BK), *Jama u Robincu* (KR), *Jama uraščene ceste* (KR), *Jama u Staroj paljevini kod Pomelara* (KR), *Jama uz cestu* (KR), *Jama kod Dundović padeža* (ŠT), *Jama kod Lubenovca* (LU), *Jama kod Lukine jame* (HK), *Jama pod Golom glavicom* (ŠT), *Jama pod Grabovim ramenom* (GR), *Jama pod kamenom rijekom* (RK), *Jama pod okomitom smrekom* (HK), *Jama pod Županovom ogradom* (ME), *Jama u Bovanu 1* (BO), *Jama u Bovanu 2* (BO), *Jama u Jatarini* (KR), *Jama u Plani* (BV), *Jama u polju* (KR), *Jama u Štokić dulibi*, *Jama u Vučjaku* (KR), *Jama za Oblim kamenom* (KR), *Klementina*<sup>15</sup> (KR), *Krajputašica*, *Krovna jama* (RK), *Ledena jama u Lomskoj dulibi* (LD), *Ledenica na Grebenu* (RK), *Ledenica u Štirovači* (ŠT), *Lubuška jama* (HK), *Mala iznad Meduze*, *Nad cestom* (MK), *Pećina na vrhu Budima* (BU), *Pećina pod Jadićinim brdom* (KR), *Pećina u Apatišanskoj dulibi* (KR), *Pećina u Kuku* (KR), *Ponor kod zaselka Vukelići* (KR), *Ponor pod Logorom* (KR), *Ponor u Klepinoj dulibi* (KD), *Prva jama*, *Prve škrape* (HK), *Snježnica kod Jovanović padeža* (JP), *Snježnica kod Vode Đurinke* (KR), *Snježnica na Ledenici* (KR), *Snježnica na pećinskom putu* (KR), *Snježnica u Apatišanskoj dulibi* (AD), *Snježnica u Klancima* (KR), *Snježnica u Medvedoj dolini* (ZA), *Škulja ispod Opaljenika*, *Škulja u Medvedoj dolini*, *Špiljica pod Javornikom* (ŠT), *Treće škrape* (HK), *Umjetnička jama pod kamenim listom* (RK).

In the group of speleonyms motivated by geomorphological features of a geographical object, the most common are relational toponyms, which are usually multi-word, composed mainly according to the pattern appellation + preposition + toponymic syntagm, where “the addition of the appellation enables the exact location of the toponym itself” (Vidović 2014: 235). Obviously, in the given examples, the most frequent prepositions are *ispod*, *iznad*, *na*, *nad*, *kod*, *kraj*, *pod*, *pored*, *u*, and *za*, which in toponymy denote spatial relations.

The second most frequent subgroup are speleonyms of adjectival origin which indicate the shape and surface properties of soil, and the most frequent among them are adjectives related to the structure of a geographical object (*Duple jame*), its size (*mala*), length (*dugačka*), colour (*crvena*, *prosjeda*, *rida*, *zelena*) and appearance (*hollow*). The third most frequent group includes one-word and two-word

<sup>15</sup> The speleonym *Klementina* refers to several objects, it is therefore numbered from 1 to 22.

speleonyms that refer to the composition and characteristics of soil or water, reflecting the presence of snow, ice and water in speleological objects. In the classical classification that relies on the traditional naming of geographical objects in Lika, this group could be classified under geographical names in toponymy, because in karst the nomenclature of *snježnica*, *ledenica* and *ruja* belongs to the group of toponymically very fruitful appellatives, but modern speleonymy does not classify them into the corpus of speleological terminology.

### ***1.3. Speleonyms motivated by the name of plants and plant communities, plant fruits and parts of plants and plant products:***

*Četiri cvijeta* (RK), *Borovnica*, *Breskva*<sup>16</sup> (CR), *Bukvine čerge*, *Dunjača* (BK), *Drvored*<sup>17</sup> (RK), *Dva javora* (RK), *Jama golih smreka* (RK), *Jama Kruška*, *Kopriva* (RK), *Koprivnjača*, *Marelisa*, *Papratnjača*, *Žitulja*<sup>18</sup> (KR).

In the group of toponyms motivated by the names of plants and plant communities, we find a reflection of shrubby plants (blueberries) and plants specific to Lika's uncultivated soil, in which ferns and nettles often grow. The names of autochthonous species (pear, quince), those that are not peculiar to Lika and Velebit (peach, apricot), but also typical Velebit deciduous and evergreen trees (beech, maple, spruce), reflect the same source.

### ***1.4. Zoonyms, speleonyms related to zoonyms (animal names), names of animals and animal organs and habitats:***

*Beli tigar*<sup>19</sup>(BK), *Crna guja* (KG), *Divokozina katedrala* (VKo), *Divokozna snježnica* (VKo), *Gavranova jama* (BE), *Gmazove jame* (RK), *Jama golubnjača* (KR), *Jama orlova snježnica* (HK), *Jama Zver* (RK), *Jazbina* (RK), *Kenjac* (HK), *Kukčeva špilja* (RK), *Medina špilja*, *Medvjede priviđenje* (KG), *Medveđi ponor* (RK), *Meduza* (CR), *Obadov ugriz* (VKo), *Orlova snježnica*, *Osinja jama* (GK), *Ovčica jama*, *Poskokova jama* (RK), *Poskokova špilja* (RK), *Puhova jama* (GO), *Puževa snježnica* (RK).

Speleonyms related to zoonyms, names of animals and animal organs or habi-

<sup>16</sup> The cadastre, as well as the list of the Northern Velebit National Park, also include a variant *Jama breskva*.

<sup>17</sup> A variant *Jama drvored* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>18</sup> A variant *Žitulja snježnica* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>19</sup> The list of the Northern Velebit National Park also includes a variant *Jama beli tigar*.

tats, reflect the importance and occurrence of certain wild animals in the Velebit area (chamois, raven, pigeon, snake, bear, gadfly, eagle, wasp, horned viper, dormouse, and snail), their habitats and residences (pit, den), and the presence of domestic animals (donkey, sheep). However, there are also names motivated by the animals to which Velebit is not a natural habitat (tiger, jellyfish), and which, in terms of motivation, could be classified as names of metaphorical origin.

### **1.5. Speleonyms motivated by natural phenomena:**

*Kiša* (HK), *Mjesečeva jama* (CR), *Oluja*, *Sunčana jama*, *Sunčana postavljajčica* (RK).

Only a few names for natural phenomena are reflected in this group, where, especially in oronymy, names are frequently created according to the position of the object in relation to the Sun and its rays. The motivation behind other names from this group probably only indirectly belongs to this motivational context.

### **2. Speleonyms formed according to other toponyms:**

*Crikvena*<sup>20</sup> (RK), *Jama Dražice* (KR), *Jama Letovača* (KR), *Jama Lopruša* (KR), *Jama Velike struge* (KR), *Jama Matežnovac* (KR), *Mala Venezuela* (BE), *Ponor Štirovača* (ŠT), *Rajinac* (AD), *B 10*<sup>21</sup> (BE).

In this group, speleonyms are motivated by the names of geographical objects in which speleological objects are located. In the spirit of the modern speleonymy of northern Velebit, the group also encompasses names motivated by the specific mood and inspiration of the denominator. In addition, the group includes coded names composed of numerical and alphabetical designations, which nevertheless refer to older names that are directly or indirectly related to speleological objects.

<sup>20</sup> In the period 1980-1984, a group of pits in the area of Rožanski kukovi was discovered by Jadranko Ostojčić and his fellow speleologists from the speleological societies *Ursus spelaeus* and the *Speleološki odsjek PD Željezničar*. It consists of about thirty pits and caverns within the *Crikvene stijene*, "so we named them after them" (Ostojčić 1997: 21). The name *Crikvena*, denoting several objects, is therefore inscribed and marked with numbers from 1 to 14.

<sup>21</sup> The cadastre includes several two-word speleonyms that consist of the letter B, denoting a more precise location (Begovača), and numbers (10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32). The speleonym B 25 in the cadastre is also recorded in the form of *Mala Venezuela*.

### ***3. Speleonyms motivated by human activity***

#### ***3.1 Speleonyms motivated by constructed objects, buildings:***

*Dimnjača*<sup>22</sup> (KR), *Dječji vrtić* (HK), *Školska jama* (RK).

##### *3.1.1 Speleonyms motivated by names for farm buildings:*

*Šterna jama*, *Križ-Kamenica*<sup>23</sup> (KR)

##### *3.1.2 Speleonyms as reflections of the names for defence and military facilities:*

*Varnjača* (RK), *Zbjeg* (ST).

#### ***3.2 Speleonyms motivated by economic activity:***

##### *3.2.1 Speleonyms related to agricultural activity:*

*Jama motika* (KR), *Vrtlar*.

##### *3.2.2.1 Speleonyms related to livestock, livestock habitats, livestock products and processed products:*

*Obor*<sup>24</sup> (BK).

##### *3.2.3 Speleonyms related to public works:*

*Karabitkin*<sup>25</sup> *let* (BE).

##### *3.2.4 Speleonyms related to other industries:*

*Jama bez smeća*.

<sup>22</sup> A variant *Jama dimnjača* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>23</sup> A variant *Jama Kriškamenica* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>24</sup> A variant *Jama Obor* was recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>25</sup> Karabitka = "speleological lamp".

### 3.3 Culturally and historically defined speleonyms:

*Hajdučka pećina* (VA).

#### 3.3.1 Speleonyms defined by the spiritual and religious life of the community:

*I bi jama*.

##### 3.3.1.1 Speleonyms motivated by the remnants of pre-Christian beliefs:

*Drekavčeva jama* (BK), *Sirena* (HK).

##### 3.3.1.2 Speleonyms motivated by other elements of spiritual culture:

*Car* (KG), *Carevo ruho* (KG), *Carica* (KG), *Carska špajza* (KG), *Carski namjesnik* (KG), *Dvorska ludica* (KG), *Dvorske lude* (KG), *Inkvizicija* (KG), *Jama Olimp*<sup>26</sup> (BE), *Kraljevska loža* (KG), *Krvnik* (KG), *Ledena palača* (GO), *Ledeni car* (KG), *Patnje mlade postavljalice* (RK), *Patuljčica*, *Patuljkova iglica*, *Patuljkova jama*, *Patuljkova špilja*, *Paž* (KR), *Potresni sezam*, *Prinčev prdac* (KG), *Princezin radijator* (KG), *Snjeguljica* (HK), *Snježni patuljak*, *Svadbjeni dar*, *Štitonoša* (KG), *Tri Gracije* (RK), *Princeza* (KG), *Umjetnička jama* (MK), *Velebitski patuljak*, *Xantipa*<sup>27</sup> (VK).

##### 3.3.2.1 Speleonyms motivated by the elements of pop culture:

*Avatar* (RK), *Azriel* (KG), *Gargamel* (KG), *Indiana Giovanis* (KR), *Jama 4banke* (SD), *Jama grupe Buldožer* (BE), *Junferka* (RK), *Kulturni ataše* (KG), *Lounge bar*, *Ledeni Štrumf*<sup>28</sup>, *Majka svih vrtača* (KG), *Mala Sirena*, *Milord* (KG), *Naputix* (RK), *Pčelica Maja* (BE), *Šminkerska jama* (HK), *Štrumfić*, *Štrumfić jama*.

As expected, the group of speleonyms motivated by human activity consists of only a few subgroups, among which culturally and historically defined spe-

<sup>26</sup> The list of the Northern Velebit National Park includes a one-member variant of *Olimp* (*Olympus*).

<sup>27</sup> „Ksantipa (Greek Ξανθίππη, Ksanthippē), Socrates's wife. According to ancient tradition, she was defiant and quarrelsome. Her name became synonymous with an evil and quarrelsome woman; figuratively a brawler, harridan, shrew.” ([www.enciklopedija.hr](http://www.enciklopedija.hr)).

<sup>28</sup> The name is also recorded in the variant *Ledeni štrumf jama*.

leonyms stand out, whereas less prominent subgroups include speleonyms motivated by other elements of spiritual culture, and speleonyms motivated by the elements of popular culture. Among culturally and historically motivated speleonyms, in addition to those derived from the regional cultural and historical landscape of the *Hajdučka pećina* type, there are speleonyms motivated by the literary and artistic narrative (*Carevo ruho*, *Patnje mlade postavljalice*, *Snjeguljica*, *dwarf*) in a broader sense, those motivated by the names of historical social classes (page, princess, king), and those that reflect the (film) fantasy world and characters based on the interpretation of folk or literary fairy tales (ice emperor, princess, squire, court jester). The specificity of modern speleonymy is reflected in the subgroup of names motivated by the elements of spiritual and popular culture, mostly of foreign provenance, in which we find names motivated by live-action and animated film fantasy characters (*Avatar*, *Azriel*, *Gargamel*, *Indiana Jones*, *Mala sirena*), who logically contextualize a mysterious, remote and mystical landscape of speleological objects, but also the names of bands inspired by urban slang. The mystical imaginary world of pits and caves is embodied in the Slavic mythological figure of Drekavac, who announces death with his terrifying appearance and voice. In other subgroups, only a few speleonyms refer to constructed objects (*Dimnjača*, *Dječji vrtić*, *Školska jama*), and could be classified into the group of toponymic metaphors because the motive behind the naming was probably related to associations evoked by the appearance of constructed buildings, whereas the examples of *Jama motika* and *Vrtlar* indicate the subgroup of toponyms motivated by agricultural activity. Throughout the history of various war threats, many caves were known only to the domicile population as safe havens from the enemy army. That is why in the Lika speleonymy there are often names of the type *Zbjeg*, referring to places where shepherds found refuge with their possessions and gave them names related to their dwellings, as evidenced by the example of the speleonym *Obor* from *Begovački kukovi*. In this group there are also two speleonyms that reflect the names of farm buildings indicating the presence of water (*Šterna jama*, *Križ-Kamenica*).

## 4 *Speleonyms of anthroponymic origin*

### 4.1 *Multi-word speleonyms of anthroponymic origin:*

#### 4.1.1 *Speleonyms formed from anthroponyms and geographical names:*

*Abelova snježnica* (KR), *Begića jama*, *Budine oči* (KG), *Budina špilja*<sup>29</sup> (ST), *Campijeva ledenica* (RK), *Frankina jama*, *Gligina golubnjača* (ST), *Jama Gregovića* (KR), *Jama pukovnika Kostadinovića* (BE), *Jama Veno*, *Jama Vjeko* (RK), *Lukina jama*<sup>30</sup> (HK), *Patkov gušt*<sup>31</sup> (GK), *Petrićeva pećina* (ST), *Prva Vanjina* (BK), *Pušinova jamurina* (ME), *Šišina jama* (LjU), *Vitina jama* (KR), *Vranina jama*, *Vukelić jama* (KR), *Vukušić snježnica*<sup>32</sup> (ZA).

The group of speleonyms formed from anthroponyms and geographical names includes younger-generation names, as evidenced by a comparison of modern databases and lists of speleonyms from the 1960s, in which there is only one such example: *Vukušića snježnica*, which later morphed into *Vukušić snježnica*. The most common two-word names in this group toponymize the names of persons who discovered a particular speleological object, who were the first to descend into it, or who are in some other way related to its research. In the subgroup of speleonyms formed from anthroponyms and the names of cultural and historical origin, only one name is recorded: *Jama Olimp*, and in the subgroup of one-word anthroponyms used as toponyms there are three names belonging to different linguistic, cultural and religious environments. These can be only indirectly connected with the local geographical environment, so that in a broader sense these names can be related to the group of toponymic metaphors.

#### 4.1.2 *Speleonyms formed from anthroponyms and diminutives:*

*Anina pipica* (BE).

<sup>29</sup> A variant *Budina pećina* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>30</sup> Lukina jama, a system of 1431 m deep pits, the fourteenth deepest pit in the world. It is located in the area of Hajdučki and Rožanski kukovi. It is named after Ozren Lukić - Luka, a speleologist who died on Velebit as a Croatian soldier in the Homeland War (Hrvatski planinar, 1997/1).

<sup>31</sup> The pit is named after Zoran Stipetić Patko (1960 -1996), a speleologist and diver, who tragically died while testing diving equipment. "In memory of Zoran, the people of Velebit gave the name Patkov gušt to the 553-meter deep pit that was discovered in 1997 and is the second largest vertical pit in the world." ([www.pdsvelebit.hr](http://www.pdsvelebit.hr)).

<sup>32</sup> Vlado Redenšak's list includes the variant *Vukšića snježnica*.



## 4.2 One-word speleonyms of anthroponymic origin:

### 4.2.1 Anthroponyms as speleonyms:

*Ester*<sup>33</sup> (HK), *Marianna* (MK), *Mercedes*<sup>34</sup> (HK).

## 5 Speleonyms of ethnic or ethnonymic origin:

1. *lička*, *Druga lička* (KG), *Polska jama* (RK), *Slovačka jama*<sup>35</sup> (MK), *Španjolka*.

In this group, the names are motivated by the ethnicity of speleologists who explored the speleological objects of northern Velebit in the 1990s, and left an indelible trace in the northern Velebit speleonymy. They include two names of the choronym type whose specific form can be associatively connected with the names of certain Lika partisan units from the Second World War.

## 6 Speleonyms motivated by the mood of the denominator:

*Ambasador dobre volje* (KG), *4 želje jama*, *Da, da, da*, *Idi mi, dođi mi* (BK), *Ne-da-mi-se jama*<sup>36</sup>, *Nemam pojma* (BK), *Povuci-potegni* (GO), *Treća sreća* (KrK),

<sup>33</sup> The Old Testament female name of Hebrew origin, in Croatian Esther, associated with the meaning “stars; secret; hidden”.

<sup>34</sup> It is a female name of Spanish origin. “The last word of the Spanish name Maria de las Mercedes - Maria of Mercy. From merced - mercy, kindness.” (Šimundić 2006: 217)

<sup>35</sup> The pit, which is located in the southern part of Hajdučki and Rožanski kukovi, was discovered in 1995 by Slovak speleologists who named it *Slovakia*. During the second campaign in 1996, the cave was renamed *Slovačka jama*. The pit has a complex morphology, it is structured of larger and smaller halls, meanders, verticals and horizontal channels, and was explored to the depth of 1324 m (Bakšić, Jalžić and Lacković 2000). While exploring the pit, speleologists also named its halls, canals and meanders, giving them mostly foreign names, most commonly derived from the Slovak language: *Horál*, *Fučák*, *Pokojna*, *Grepova*, *Hrncovi meandar*, *Cez celu zem*, *Črevo*, *Kankulovska vetva*, *Žumpa*, *Fosilna chodba*, *Hermanova studnja*, *Cyklop*, *Šaleni meandar*, *Bituminozna šachta*, *Vločka*, *Daždova studnja*, the names of Russian origin: *Tundra*, *Tajga*, and several names of Croatian origin: *Prolaz pješčanog sata*, *Velebni kanal*, *Patkov skok*, *Kišna*. While describing Slovak speleological exploration of Velebit in the book *Velebit Reportáž z objavovanja hlbokych pripasti Chorovátška v rockoh 1990 – 1998.*, Branislav Šmída et al., they also described the circumstances in which the newly discovered pit was named, stating that during the exploration they felt the need to name an object after them, given their efforts, and so they named the cave *Slovakia*. However, “Začiatkom roku 1997 nam však bolo chorovátskou stranou načrtnute, že by sme mohli nazov pripasti pozmeniť, pretože Slovakia je ako súčasne medzinarodny nazov ineho štátu v prave formujucom sa mladom Chrovatsku pre tak významny geografický jav (priecest sa stala zrazu druhou najhlbšou v krajine!) problematickým. Stalo sa, nazov bol z etických dovodov pozmenený a dnešný názov systému (na ktorý sme si už zvykali aj my sami, objavitelia, a používame ho) je Slovačka jama” (Šmída et al. 1999: 43).

<sup>36</sup> A variant *Jama Ne-da-mi-se* was also recorded in the cadastre.

*Veliki odmor* (GR), *Tjeskobni kuloar* (RK), *Uspavanka*<sup>37</sup>.

This group of speleonyms testifies to new motivational stimuli and creative patterns that have no basis in the peculiarities of the historical or contemporary Croatian toponymy, and certainly pose a challenge to toponymy, but also to the processes of standardization of Croatian geographical names<sup>38</sup>.

### 7 *Speleonyms of unclear origin or motivation:*

*Astralila* / *Astralka*, *Banzek jama* (BK), *Bateryjka* (HK), *Bejbi Pusi* (VKo), *Be-kina* (HK), *Bljušt* (RK), *Broceebark*, *Brutal* (HK), *Cener jama* (RK), *Cenculo-va* (HK), *C.K.A.P.* (BK), *Chorvatska stovka*, *Condoma* (HK), *Čachticka puklina* (VK), *Čierna* (VK), *Čierna diera* (HK), *Dada*, *Dazvenice jama*, *Devijatorka* (< fr. deviateur 'zrak. pogonsko sidro kod zračnih lađa) (KG), *Dje si mjeri* (KrK), *Dra-ma for you* / *Mamina jama*, *Droļcova jama* (BE), *Dry well* (HK), *Dvojuchodova* (HK), *El grande misterio*, *Euro jama*, *Farebna* (HK), *FAU* (VU), *Golubička* (GO), *Gravitačna* (VK), *Guzuder* (HK), *Eliminator* (HK), *Hneda* (BK), *Jama SOV* / *Hrvatska stotka* (HK), *Ilibris jama* (HK), *Istinite laži* (BK), *Jama bukvine čerge* (BK), *Jama druga obiteljska* (RK), *Jama Karabitkin let* (BK), *Jama Kroidori* (RK), *Jama Paga* (JA), *Jama svjati* (HK), *Jama ulat* (BK), *Jarebika* (GO), *Jazerna* (BK), *Julia Tulia* (VK), *Jumferka*, *Jvelo*, *Kamzičia* (VK), *Kanonjača* (RK), *Katolinac* (AD), *Kamzičia priepast* (MK), *Kanon* (HK), *Kapljun* (KR), *Kleking jama*, *Korzena*

<sup>37</sup> In the list of the Northern Velebit National Park, a variant *Uspavanka jama* was recorded.

<sup>38</sup> A text dedicated to the exploration of the cave system in *Kita Gačešina* in south-eastern Velebit also testifies to the context and motivation behind the process of naming speleological objects. "Speleologists face a similar challenge every day, but deep down underground they have no one to ask for advice, and they are left to their own devices when it comes to giving names. And it was necessary to find names for the canals whose total length equals the road from Đakovo to Osijek. The first canals were called *Vrata percepcije*, *Amazona*, *Brački kanal*, *Blankin kanal*, *Ledena kokoš*, *Razvratnica* etc. Later on came *Lude 70-te dide Vladimira*, *Iskompleksirani prstenovi*, *Kme*, *The lunatic is in the hall*, etc....

Some of them have exhausted various variants of the same basis for cavern names: *Kitobran*, *Makita*, *Ki-tasan*, *Bronkita*, *Kitasan*, *Kitakaze*, *Kita* u Velebita, *Kiternica*... Many names come from a play on words, their merging and twisting: *Skalialinada*, *Kantina na kantunu u Kontinuumu*, *Upitničak*, *Bolna S'Lutanja*, *Minda Pornjača*, *Mazda Piterina*, *Blatarevo blato*; *TosterSteron*, *MakOvnjača*, *Nebozemlje*, *Najn van van*, etc.

These names are not merely funny, as they may appear at first glance. Speleologists have put unimaginably great effort, pain and expertise into the discovery and exploration of underground spaces, and the whole of Croatia, the Dinaric Karst and beyond are richer for it. It's their world, they have explored it and given it to the community, together with those names, as a gift." (One of the most spectacular days in the history of Croatian speleology, the Black Cave System gains global significance, here's why. *Jutarnji list*, 14 August 2019).

(HK), *Kordinovac*<sup>39</sup> (KR), *Kostol* (VK), *Krepova jama* (GO), *Krokz* (GO), *Kubanskaja*<sup>40</sup> (HK), *Kučeva špilja*, *Kumova duplonka* (BK), *Kusoček* (HK), *Ladovi kanon*<sup>41</sup> (RK), *Laserska jama* (KR), *Lipoice jama*, *Lomeniak* (RK), *Maduza* (RK), *Majova* (VK), *Mali suk* (BK), *Matežnovac* (KR), *Meandrova* (MK), *Meandrova priepast* (MK), *Medvedina jaskyna* (RK), *Moja prva* (BK), *Mostova* (MK), *Mount & Wave*, (HK), *Nad cestou* (MK), *Na hrane* (MK), *Niš' niš'* (MKo), *Paka* (ŠT), *Pavučja jama / Pavučia* (HK), *Piaggio bella*, *Picos*, *Platna* (VK), *Ploska* (VK), *Pod sucharom* (MK), *Polako desanto* (HK), *Pola sata* (KrK), *Pompe* (KrK), *Prehmana* (VK), *Prepikača*, *Pri dvoch smrekoch* (MK), *Priečkova* (HK), *Priepastova* (VK), *Priepast smadu* (VK), *Prvi spit* (HK), *Ren Bar* (RK), *Ribarka* (HK), *ROM pečina* (HK), *Samoborci krumpiraši* (BE), *Sbardella* (RK), *Siera* (HK), *SKUB* (BE), *Slimaćia* (VK), *Slowmotion*, *Snehova* (VK), *Snehova* (HK), *Sraka Novaka* (HK), *Studnia mlodych* (GO), *Svjati* (HK), *Škrapova* (HK), *Taka mala* (HK), *Tekstopera*, *Telefonka jama*, *Triplex* (KR), *Trojita* (VK), *Učko* (MK), *UHU* (VK), *Ulat* (BE), *Uska Štrimfja*, *Veliki Kusoček* (HK), *Veno jama*, *Wet well* (HK), *Vina pivnica*, *Zapetljanka jama*, *Zenske jame*, *Zukovača* (KR).

As a rule, the motivational classification of each toponymy ends with a more or less extensive group of toponyms of obscure origin or motivation, in which there are toponyms whose opacity testifies to ancient names that were given to geographical objects in a certain historical period by the population of different ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic origins. This corpus of names was inherited to varying degrees by the population that later inhabited the areas in question, and during centuries of linguistic overlaying, these names changed their form and became motivationally opaque.

However, examples from the speleonymy of northern Velebit testify to Croatian toponymy and a hitherto uncharacteristic process and pattern of naming geographical objects by using appellations from foreign languages, in this case mostly from Slovak, which are not adapted to domicile toponymy or linguistic peculiarities. This speleonymy is truly opaque from the level of the Croatian language, but translated from the Slovak language, it reveals a motivational logic close to the peculiarities of the Croatian tradition in naming speleological objects. In this sen-

<sup>39</sup> A variant *Snježnica Kordinovac* was also recorded in the cadastre.

<sup>40</sup> Several pits of the same name have been recorded in the area of Hajdučki kukovi; Kubanskaja, which are differentiated numerically.

<sup>41</sup> The name is entered in the database in the specified form in the Croatian alphabet, and the second part of the name is probably kanjon > slov. kaňon.

se, illustrative examples are: *Čierna* < slvk. čierny “black”, *Dvojvchodova* < slvk. dvojité vchod “double entrance”, *Hneda* < slvk. hnedý “brown”, *Kamzičia* < slvk. kamzík “chamois”, *Kanon* < slvk. kaňon “canyon”, *Meandrova* < slvk. “meander”, *Medvedina jaskyna* < slvk. medved “bear” jaskiňa “cave”, *Mostova* < slvk. “bridge”, *Pavučia* < slvk. pavučina “cobweb”, *Pod sucharom* < slvk. “under the biscuit”, *Pri dvoch smrekoch* < slvk. “At twospruces”, *Priepastova* < slvk. priepasť “abyss”, *puklina* < slvk. “crack”, *Ribarka* < slvk. rybárka “fisherwoman”, *Slimaćia* < slvk. slimák “snail”, *Snehova* < slvk. sneh “snow”, *Zenske jame* < slvk. “woman”. Some of them testify to transcription issues, especially in the recording of soft Slovak consonants that are written with a diacritical mark, the omission of which leads to the opacity of the name as in the example of *Kanon* < kaňon.

In addition, in the corpus of the northern Velebit speleonymy, there is a speleonymy that has originated in English, German and Italian, recorded in its original form: *Brockebark*, *Drama for you*, *Mount & Wave*, *Piaggio bella*, *Slowmotion*, *Triplex*, *Wet well*. There are also examples of speleonyms that have been recorded as specific adaptations to the Croatian language, such as *Bejbi Pusi*.

### ***Traditional and Administrative Names***

Lika's speleonyms from the older period are of distinctly Croatian/Slavic origin, with rare examples of oriental (*Jaruga*, *Amidžina pećina*, *Surdup*) and Hungarian origins (*Čatrnja*). In the structural/creative sense, this Lika speleonymy follows the usual toponymic formulas with the expected distribution of suffixes. However, modern speleonymy, especially in the area of northern Velebit, deviates significantly from these principles (Mataija 2019). Unlike the traditional northern Velebit toponymy, with a century-old field verification and an obvious connection with local cultural and linguistic patterns, which structurally, motivationally and linguistically fits into the traditional division of Croatian toponyms, the modern northern Velebit speleonymy represents a marked deviation from the traditional and scientifically established to the administrative; it is uneven and unsystematic in terms of formation and standardization. This corpus, since it does not belong to the Croatian nomenclatural tradition, requires a special scientific as well as administrative approach, and has yet to be adequately addressed.

## CREATIVE CLASSIFICATION OF SPELEONYMS

### **1 *Speleonyms formed according to toponymy without any additions:***

*Avatar, Azriel, Borovnica, Breskva, Buža, Car, Gargamel, Jazbina, Kenjac, Kiša, Kopriva, Lom, Marelica, Mala, Meduza, Obor, Oluja, Paž, Sirena, Snjeguljica, Školjka, Vulkan, Zbjeg.*

#### **1.1 *Geographical names and diminutives in speleonymy:***

*Inkvizicija, Jama, Jama 2, Jama 3, Jama 3A, Jama 4, Jama 5, Jama 6A, Jama 7, Jama 9, Jama 10, Jama 11, Jama 13, Jama 13 A, Jama 14, Jama 15A, Jama 16, Jama 31, Jama 32, Jama 33, Jama 33A, Jama 33 B, Jama 33C, Jama VI, Japaga. Križ-Kamenica, Šterna jama.*

#### **1.2 *Toponymic metaphors:***

*Čarapa, Čikobernica, Pukla, Srkić.*

The group of speleonyms created without any additions includes names coined by toponymization of appellations from the group of toponymic nouns, speleonyms of anthroponymic origin, diminutives, but also toponymic metaphors outside the usual toponymic basins, which testify to much wider sources of toponymy than those inherent in the traditional Croatian and local toponymy.

## **2 *Affixal formation:***

### **2.1 *Suffix formation:***

*Carica, Crikvena, Čakovača, Dimnjača, Dunjača, Grančica 1, Grančica 2, Jamurina, Japagina, Junferka, Kanonjača, Klementina, Koprivnjača, Kordinovac, Krvnik, Ledenica, Ljepotica, Osmulja, Papratnjača, Patuljčica, Princeza, Prdara, Rajinac, Runtača, Sniježnica, Španjolka, Varnjača, Vrtilar, Zukoavača, Žitulja, Živan.*

### **2.2 *Prefix-suffix formation:***

*Krajputašica, Nepristupačna, Uspavanka.*

## **2.3 Complex toponyms:**

### *2.3.1 One-word compound toponyms:*

*Nevidena, Štitonoša.*

#### *2.3.1.1 Toponymic compounds:*

##### *2.3.1.1.1 Number + conjunction + noun:*

*Dvojama, Trojama.*

##### *2.3.1.2 Toponymic conjunctions: adjective + Ø + noun:*

##### *2.3.1.3 Toponymic semi-compounds:*

*Križ-Kamenica.*

In the corpus of the northern Velebit speleonymy, there are no examples of prefixal formation in which prefixes most often denote spatial relations, but a suffixal formation with suffixes denoting “augmentation, diminutiveness, possessiveness and collectiveness” (Vidović 2014: 288). In this sense, the most frequent suffixes are:

-*ača*, which indicates the presence of certain plant species in the vicinity or inside speleological objects (*Dunjača, Koprivnjača, Papratnjača*).

-*ica*, which is added to the toponymic base indicating diminutive meaning (*Grančica, Patuljčica*), noticeable presence of what is contained in the base (*Sniježnica, Ledenica*), or for the purpose of turning adjectives into nouns (*Ljepotica*).

-*ina*, which indicates augmentative meaning (*Jamurina, Japagina*).

Toponomastic compounds belong to the creative pattern that often emerges, primarily in the Lika oronymy (*Trolokva, Trojelac, Tromeda, Trouura, Trovrh*), and denotes the shape and surface properties of the object.

### *2.4.2 Multi-word speleonyms:*

#### *2.4.2.1 Two-word toponymic syntagms:*

*Jama pukotina, Japaga jama.*

#### 2.4.2.1.1 Two-word toponymic syntagms created by transonymization:

##### 2.4.2.1.2 Adjective + noun:

*Abelova snježnica, Anina pipica, Begića jama, Beli tigar, Budine oči, Budina špilja, Bukvine čerge, Crna guja, Campijeva ledenica, Carevo ruho, Carska špajza, Carski namjesnik, Crvena škrapa, Divokozina katedrala, Divokozna snježnica, Dječja jama, Dječji vrtić, Dobra špajza, Drekavčeva jama, Droljcova jama, Dugačka jama, Duple jame, Dvorska ludica, Dvorske lude, Frankina jama, Gavranova jama, Gligina golubnjača, Gmazove jame, Hajdučka pećina, Jurišna jama, Kameni cvijet, Karabinkin let, Krljava jama, Kraljevska loža, Krovna jama, Krvava jama, Krvavo koleno, Kukčeva špilja, Laka meta, Laserska jama, Ledena palača, Ledeni car, Ledeni Štrumpf, Lubuška jama, Lukina jama, Mala ledenica, Mala Sirena, Mala Venezuela, Medina špilja, Medjede prividenje, Medveđi ponor, Mjesečeva jama, Mrtvački znoj, Nebeska kuka, Nebeska vrata, Nemirna jama, Olovkina jama, Patkov gušt, Patuljkova iglica, Patuljkova jama, Patuljkova špilja, Petrićeva pećina, Poskokova jama, Polska jama, Poskokova špilja, Potresni sezam, Princezin radijator, Prinčev prdac, Prosjeda jama, Prvi spit, Puhova jama, Pušinova jamurina, Puževa snježnica, Riđa propast, Rujna jama, Orlova snježnica, Osinja jama, Slovačka jama, Snježni patuljak, Solo jama, Spaljeni meandar, Spora jama, Svadbeni dar, Sunčana jama, Sunčana postavljajica, Šišina jama, Školska jama, Šminkerska jama, Šumski kotao, Šuplji dolac, Tajna odaja, Treća sreća, Trogrla žderavica, Tjeskobni kuloar, Umjetnička jama, Večernja jama, Velebitski patuljak, Veliki odmor, Veliki meandar, Vitina jama, Vodena stijena, Vranina jama, Vukelić jama, Vukušić snježnica, Zelena jama<sup>42</sup>.*

##### 2.4.2.1.3 Preposition + noun:

*Nad cestom.*

##### 2.4.2.1.4 Noun + adjective:

*Jama Lopruša, Jama golubnjača, Jama Gregovica.*

<sup>42</sup> A variant *Zelena* was also recorded in the cadastre.

#### 2.4.2.1.5 Noun + noun:

*Čep jama, Duet jama, Jama Dražice, Jama Kruška, Jama ložnica, Jama Letovača, Jama motika, Jama Olimp, Jama svetinja, Jama Šlapice, Jama Veno, Jama Vjeko, Jama Vrtilica, Jama Zver, Lakat pećnica, Mramornica snježnica, Ovčica jama, Pčelica Maja, Ponor Štirovača, Špilja meandar, Šterna jama, Štrumfić jama, Uspavanka jama, Zabluda jama, Jama Matežnovac.*

#### 2.4.2.1.6 Number + noun:

*Druge škrabe, Četiri cvijeta, Dva javora, Prva jama, Prve škrabe, Prva Vanjina, Treća sreća, Treće škrabe, Tri Gracije.*

#### 2.4.2.1.7 Noun + number:

*Pećina I, Pećina II, Jama 2, Jama 3, Jama 3A, Jama 4, Jama 5, Jama 6A, Jama VI, Jama 7, Jama 9, Jama 10, Jama 11, Jama 13A, Jama 13, Jama 22, Jama 14, Jama 15A, Jama 16, Jama 31, Jama 32, Jama 33 B, Jama 33, Jama 33A, Jama 33C, Jama SOV 32, Jama SOV 39.*

#### 2.4.2.1.8 Number + noun:

*8 jama, 8A jama, 8 B jama, 8 C jama, 20 jama.*

#### 2.4.2.1.9 Letter + number:

*B 10, B13, B 14 ... B 32*

#### 2.4.32.10 Adjective + adjective:

*Druga lička.*

In this group, the most numerous are the names in which the first member of the toponymic syntagm is an adjective derived from the name of animals (*Divo-kozina katedrala, Medvedji ponor, Poskokova špilja, Orlova snježnica, Osinja jama*), then anthroponyms (*Lukina jama*), descriptive and constructive adjectives (*Dugačka jama, Kameni cvijet, Ledena palača, Zelena jama*), while the less represented



adjectives are derived from the name of plants (*Bukvine čerge*) and toponyms (*Lubuška jama*, *Velebitski patuljak*). Also, the presence of toponymically specific adjectives, which come from the corpus of traditionally toponymically less fertile lexemes, is noticeable in this corpus. The northern Velebit speleonymy is distinctive for the marked presence of the formation principle: nouns + number, number + noun and letter + number, which is rarely encountered in the corpus of older Velebit speleonyms, but this can certainly change, depending on the spirit in which newly discovered speleological objects are named, and on the motivation for their naming.

#### 2.4.2.2 Multi-word toponymic syntagms:

##### 2.4.2.2.1 Noun + preposition + noun in the function of speleonyms:

*Jama na Čuki, Jama pod dugama, Jama pod kišnim slapom, Jama u polju, Jama u šumi na pločama, Jama uz cestu.*

##### 2.4.2.2.2 Noun + preposition + toponymic syntagm:

*Bezdanica u šumi Paljež (KR), Bezdan u Krasanjskoj dulibi, Jama ispod Male paljevine, Jama iznad Malog loma, Jama iznad Kugine kuće, Jama kod Dundović padeža, Jama kod Lubenovca, Jama kod Lukine jame, Jama kod Modrić doca, Jama kod Sekičeve krčevine, Jama kraj orlove snježnice, Jama na Biljevinama, Jama na cesti Jelovac, Jama na Dugačkoj plasi, Jama na Kozarici, Jama na Pločama, Jama na Razvali, Jama na Stražbenici, Jama na Vrančini, Jama na vrhu Golubića, Jama pod Grabovim ramenom, Jama pod kamenom rijekom, Jama pod Kukom, Jama pod Bilim kukom, Jama pod Golom glavicom, Jama pod Gregovicom, Jama pod Liscem, Jama pod okomitom smrekom, Jama pod Rasovcem, Jama pod Velikim Zavižanom, Jama pod Zavižanom, Jama pod Županovom ogradom, Jama pored staze za Mali Rajinac, Jama u Bovanu, Jama u Jatarini, Jama u Kuku, Jama u Mačjoj glavi, Jama u Piskulji, Jama u Plani, Jama u Robincu, Jama u Staroj paljevini kod Pomelara, Jama u Štokić dulibi, Jama u Vučjaku, Jama za Oblim kamenom, Ledenica na Grebenu, Ledenica u Štirovači, Pećina na vrhu Budima, Pećina pod Jadićinim brdom, Jama pored Nemirne, Pećina u Apatišanskoj dulibi, Pećina u Kuku, Snježnica u Medvedoj dolini, Ponor kod zaselka Vukelići, Ponor pod Logorom, Ponor u Klepinoj dulibi, Snježnica kod Jovanović padeža, Snježnica kod Vode Đurinke, Snježnica na Ledeni-*

*ci, Snježnica na pećinskom putu, Snježnica u Apatišanskoj dulibi, Snježnica u Klančima, Škulja ispod Opaljenika, Špiljica pod Javornikom, Škulja u Medvjeđoj dolini.*

2.4.2.2.3 *Toponymic syntagm + preposition + noun in the function of toponyms:*

2.4.2.2.4 *Noun + toponymic syntagm:*

*Jama golih smreka, Jama orlova snježnica, Jama Velike struge, Jama uraščene ceste.*

2.4.2.2.5 *Adjective + toponymic syntagm:*

*Ledena jama u Lomskoj dulibi, Mala iznad Meduze.*

2.4.2.2.6 *Number + noun + noun:*

*Četiri bora jama, Riđa napast jama.*

2.4.2.2.10 *Other multi-word toponymic syntagms:*

*Ambasador dobre volje, Jama iz drugog kuta, Jama s tri ulaza, Kruna mog života jama, Nebeska kuka jama, I bi jama, Jama bez smeća, Jama grupe Buldožer, Jama pukovnika Kostadinovića, Majka svih vrtača, Patnje mlade postavljalice, Umjetnička jama pod kamenim listom.*

Although multi-word toponyms are hardly used anymore, they are often represented in microtoponymy and belong to the group of related toponyms formed by indirect naming. Such toponyms “name an object with the help of another, better known object, or according to some circumstances related to the origin of the name. Such microtoponyms appear in archaic syntactic form and function as parts of dialogue, answering the question: Where is the locality in question?” (Frančić 2003: 379). Given the time and circumstances of the naming process, it is understandable why this group consists of many speleonyms which are commonly formed according to the pattern nouns + preposition + toponymic syntagm.

### *Origins of Modern Northern Velebit Speleonymy*

In modern times, the naming of speleological objects in Lika according to different motivational criteria is carried out by speleologists who explore them. These are often speleologists from other countries and different linguistic and cultural environments. This is how the names that do not belong to the corpus of Lika, Croatian or Slavic onomastic traditions are created, testifying to the denominator's social taste, culture and often sense of humour. These names become official, topographical material that is entered into national databases, literature and maps.

Although the area of northern Velebit was explored by mountaineers, travel writers and naturalists as early as the 17th century, the first records of the names of speleological objects from that area can be found in Josip Poljak's *Vodič po Velebitu* (*Guide to Velebit*) from 1929. The first speleological exploration in this area was conducted by Ante Premužić in the period from 1929 to 1933, who learned the name of every sinkhole, cave and pit in Rožanski and Hajdučki kukovi and in Vratarski kuk from the peasants and wrote it down. But as he himself reported in 1960, his notes were destroyed during the Second World War (Božić 2002). Later speleological research was conducted in the 1960s for the needs of the JNA (the Yugoslav People's Army), but these data remained unavailable. Strong interest in speleological research in this area arose after the discovery of Lukina jama in Hajdučki kukovi in 1992, followed by extensive speleological research conducted by Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, Belgian, Dutch and Lithuanian speleologists. These explorations led to the discovery of hundreds of Velebit pits and caves, for which the researchers coined names that were often quite different from the older Velebit toponymy in their motivational, structural and linguistic features. This is evidenced, for example, by the description of the Lubuška jama on Hajdučki kukovi, which lists the names of its components: "A 24- meter vertical descends through a narrow meander in which one often gets caught on a rock. This part of the cave was called Guzuder by Polish speleologists." ([www.speleologija.hr](http://www.speleologija.hr)). *Prve škrabe, Mount & Wave, Druge škrabe, Tereće škrabe, Eliminator, Kiša, Veliki meandar, Dry well, Wet well, Spaljeni meandar* followed. The description of the Paž pit at the location of Kita Gavranuša lists the names of other smaller pits: *Dvorska luda* -200 m, *Princeza* -185 m, *Prva Lička* -185 m, *Ledeni car* -165 m, *Carica* -115 m i *Inkvizicija* -88m.

The processes and motives behind the naming of several Velebit speleological objects were described by Slovak speleologists, and the description of how the *Slovačke jame* was named is particularly informative:

„O názve

Úvodne partie dnešnej Slovačky jamy sme v roku 1995 nejaký čas po objave volali pre „prvokontaktný stret“ s pizolitmi b jej vehode Kvavá jama. Dnes sa takto volá menšia priepasť o čosi d' alej ku Velikom Lubenovcu.

Pre vehodové partie sa ujal v momentoch sondovania pracovaný názov Horal, no tak ako získavala priepasť na metroch, čoraz viac sme pomysľali i na to, že ak uť aj nič iné poriadne vo Velebíte neobjavíme, nech je niečo pomenované po nás, čo sme to tu dost' zásadne rozbehli a veľké priepasti si tu v „boji“ s ľadom, hlbáčiznými šachtami, či zimou v podzemi zaslúžene vydobili.

Spomenuli sme si pritom aj na novozélandskú Bohemiu ... Teda Slovenská priepasť, Slovenka ... ale čo sa budeme trápiť nech sa to volá Slovakia! Ak bi ste si zalistovali v denniku Jana Vykoupila, po prvý raz sa v ňom tento názov objavuje 4. augusta. Ujal sa a ešte dlho tak volávali preipasť aj chorvátski jaskyniari a pod nim sa objavil názov lokality i v tlači.

Začiatkom roku 1997 nám však chorovátskou stranou načrtnuté, že by sme mohli názov pripasti pozmeniť, pretože Slovakia je ako súčasne medzinárodný názov iného štátu v práve formujúcom sa mladom Chrovátsku pre tak významný geografický jav (priepasť sa stala zrazu druhou najhlbšou v krajine!) problematickým. Stalo sa, názov bol z etických dôvodov pozmenený a dnešný názov systému (na ktorý sme si už zvykali aj my sami, objavitelia, a používame ho) je Slovačka jama. (Šmída et al. 1999: 42–43)

Farbená

„Na stenách priepasti sú ružovoranzové „lizance“, striedajúce sa s bielymi – od toho pochádza aj názov. (Šmída et al. 1999: 72)“

Kamzíčia

„ktorí našli na dne prvej studne 2 kostry kamzíkov.“ (Šmída et al. 1999: 46)

Krvava jama

„...Po pohadzovaní labilných blokov preilezol do nasledujúcej z nich, pričom si na ostrých britoch v jej uvode zodral kožu na dlani až do krvi. (Šmída et al. 1999: 46)

### **Speleological cadastre**

Speleological objects, defined as naturally formed underground cavities (cave, pit, chasm, estavel, etc.) in the *Zakon o zaštiti prirode* (Nature Protection Act) (OG 80/13, 15/18, 13/19, 127/19), have been declared objects of special interest to the Republic of Croatia, and the line ministry was instructed to maintain a special database on them: the speleological cadastre. *Katastar speleoloških objekata Republike*

*Hrvatske* “is established and maintained by the Ministry of the Economy and Sustainable Development. The Cadastre is part of the CroSpeleo information system (<https://crospeleo.mingor.hr/>), and was jointly established in 2015 by the Institute and speleological associations and institutions concerned with speleological activities that are based in the Republic of Croatia. The main goal of the Cadastre is to consolidate and harmonize data on speleological objects at the national level and ensure they can be accessed. Speleologists collect and enter data into the Cadastre together with accompanying photo documentation, drawings and other archive material (...) All Cadastre data are fully available to stakeholders, institutions in the nature protection sector, and state and public institutions dealing with the protection and rescue of people and their property. With reduced content, the data are available to the public on the web portal of the Nature Protection Information System - Bioportal” (Đud, Vuković i Žeger Pleše 2021: 16–19).

The *Protocol on Work Processes of the Cadastre of Speleological Objects of the Republic of Croatia*, published by the Croatian Agency of the Environment and Nature in April 2018, in addition to the rules of registration in the Cadastre, specifies the method of data entry and description of work processes, and Paragraph 9 refers to the instructions for entering the names of speleological objects as follows: “The oldest known name shall be entered, preferably the one used by the local population. Exceptions that are not uncommon may be younger synonyms whose names have become commonplace owing to long use and their publication in the literature. The words *špilja* (cavern) or *jama* (pit) are entered only if they are part of the name (Jama u Dubokom docu), and not if they are a supplement to the name (Veternica cavern). As far as the terms *špilja*, *spilja*, *spila* (t.n.: spelling variations of the word cavern) and *pećina* (cave) are concerned, the Croatian usage recognizes all the above as well as other words. Objects from an area named only e.g. Jama 1, Jama 2, if they are not intended to be given different names, should be supplemented with a descriptive part: Jama 2 kod potocića or Drežnička jama 2. In the case of an object with several entrances that make up the system, only its name and not the descriptive part (pit system, cave system, etc.) is entered under the name of the object, e.g.: Lukina jama – Trojama. When entering the name, attention should be paid to the spelling (ije, je č, ć, etc.) because reference literature lists the same objects both under correctly and incorrectly spelled names (e.g.: Modrič cavern, according to the bay with the same name, not Modrić). All the names recorded in reference literature and the names used locally are entered as synonyms. If there was a provisional name for the object that was used during the research, and it was not published

anywhere, it is not entered as a synonym.” (Protokol 2018: 5).

By 2021, 3401 speleological objects were registered in the Cadastre, most of them (684) from the Lika-Senj County. (Đud, Vuković and Žeger Pleše: 2021).

The speleonyms described in this paper have been checked against the Cadastre.

## CONCLUSION

The creative classification of the speleonymy of northern Velebit shows that out of a total of 493 speleonyms, 22% of them are one-word, 56% two-word, and 22% multi-word. In terms of motivation, the most common are speleonyms that in a broader sense belong to the names of unclear motivation or origin, and this group includes speleonyms atypical of Croatian toponymy, among which names from foreign languages constitute the most common subset. The second most frequent group includes speleonyms determined by their position/relationship to other toponyms, in which older toponyms represent a second or a third member of multi-word names. This creative and motivational pattern is very common in naming speleological objects, and it is compatible with the naming instructions listed in the *Katastar sepeleolških objekata RH*. The third most frequent motivational group of toponymic metaphors mirrors new trends that are uncharacteristic of the traditional Croatian toponymy. In this group, the names are often based on a metaphor from everyday speech and popular culture. This is reflected in a subset of speleonyms, created for the purpose of this analysis, which was motivated by the elements of popular culture that, just like a subset of other elements of spiritual culture, testify to the spiritual horizons of modern speleologists. In the group of geographical names in speleonymy, the most common name is the appellation *pit*, whose frequency is related to the category of this speleological object, which indicates the time of discovery and the environment in which the object was named. Speleological nomenclature is much more layered when it comes to two-word and multi-word speleonyms, in which anthroponyms and appellatives characteristic of the wider Velebit speleonymy appear as the first word of the name. The most frequent among them include: abyss, den, pit, *japaga* (t.n.: a pit-like opening where you can see the bottom, but it is difficult to access), ravine, cave, abyss, semi-cavern, precipice-cave, ruins and cavern. Examples of the type *Snježnica/Snježnjača* and *Golubnjača* motivationally belong to different groups, but it is evident from Lika examples that they also function as appellatives, especially when they have another member, mostly an

adjective or anthroponym in the adjectival form.

Examples of the modern northern Velebit speleonymy also point to the problem of standardization of geographical names. Article 2 of the *Zakon o državnoj izmjeri i katastru nekretnina* (State Survey and Real Estate Cadastre Act) (NN 112/18) declared state survey, real estate cadastre, infrastructure cadastre, building register, register of spatial units and register of geographical names to be of interest to the Republic of Croatia. It is thus stated in Article 148 that “the tasks of standardization of geographical names are performed by public bodies, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names”. The Register of Geographical Names in the Republic of Croatia is kept by the State Geodetic Administration, which has been collecting geographical names, primarily in the Croatian language and Latin alphabet, since 2013<sup>43</sup>, and so far a total of 120,000 names have been collected.

On 28 March 2019, the Government of the Republic of Croatia appointed the *Povjerenstvo za standardizaciju geografskih imena* (Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names) as an advisory body for a term of four years, with the task of “monitoring the implementation of regulations regarding settlements and how they are applied to geographical names, auditing toponyms and determining new ones, establishing the spelling and application of foreign geographical names in education, science, Croatian diplomacy, etc., making proposals and recommendations for standardization of geographical names in the Republic of Croatia and foreign geographical names, making improvement recommendations for the register of geographical names, and participating in international organizations concerned with geographical names.”

During its work so far, the Commission has adopted *Preporuke za imenovanje naselja, ulica i trgova* (Recommendations for naming settlements, streets and squares) and *Preporuke za pisanje i uporabu geografskih imena iz stranih jezika* (Recommendations for writing and using geographical names from foreign languages) (Crljenko: 2020). Recommendations for naming speleological objects will probably soon be considered and adopted at one of the sessions, so that, for example, the pit *Pri dvoch smrekoch* would become the pit Kod dviju smreka.

<sup>43</sup> “Bilingual geographical names are collected in the Register for administrative units (cities, municipalities, settlements) that are inhabited by members of national minorities, who, according to the Constitution, have the right to the official use of their language and script. The importance of using the language and script of a national minority is necessary to preserve the toponymy of the geographical inventory, especially in border areas, where social, economic, cultural, political and other differences between states and populations exist.” (Specifikacija: 8/59).

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## SPECIFIČNOST SPELEONIMA SJEVERNOG VELEBITA

### SAŽETAK

U radu se, na temelju arhivskoga, i istraživanja referentne literature, donosi toponomastička obradba speleonimije sjevernoga Velebita. Posebna se pozornost posvećuje imenima oblikovanima koncem 20. stoljeća kad su, na tragu snažnog interesa za speleološka istraživanja ovog prostora, poglavito nakon otkrića Lukine jame u Hajdučkim kukovima 1992. g., uslijedila brojna speleološka istraživanja koja su, uz hrvatske, provodili slovački, poljski, mađarski, belgijski, nizozemski i litvanski speleolozi. Rezultati tih istraživanja doveli su do otkrića više stotina velebitskih jama kojima su istraživači nadijevali imena koja po svojim motivacijskim, strukturnim i jezičnim osobitostima ne pripadaju tradiciji velebitske krške zemljopisne nomenklature, lokalnih kulturoloških obrazaca i idioma na čijim je temeljima oblikovana starija velebitska speleonimija.

### KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

*sjeverni Velebit, speleonimija, speleološki objekti, imenovanje, standardizacija*