

Speleological Research of Racha Limestone Massif

Lasha Asanidze

E-mail: lasha.asanidze@tsu.ge

Department of Geography, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 0179, Tbilisi, I. Chavchavadze 3

Racha limestone massif is the most large-scale, relatively young in the Caucasus. The limestone depression is distinguished by the abundance of the siphon lakes and underground rivers. There are numerous karst forms in the depression, such as: karst wells.

Research concerns to complex study of the karst processes and the phenomena in the Racha limestone massif.

Limestone massif is not completely studied by geomorphologic and geological point of view. In the region the researches have not been renewed even since 80-90s of the last century. During the research will be studied the morphological and morphometric features of the cave, important karst processes will be surveyed, the course of meteorological elements will be studied and finally, the model of the Racha limestone massif relief of different scale will be created.

The presented model can be used for further study of karst processes in the different limestone massifs of Georgia.

The research results will contribute to the development of speleo-tourism in region. This first of all, will provide local population with job places, develop their social - economic situation and reduce the rate of migration in the region. The mentioned research will be of scientific and practical importance.