

Project Update: October 2014

Seminars about biospeleology, palaeobiology, and the necessity for local cave conservation were conducted for public school pupils in the villages of Nikortsinda, Tsesi and Tlugh and Ambrolauri town (Ambrolauri district, Racha region). During excursions in the Kidobana, Sakishore, Dolabistavi and Usholta caves speleobiological, meteorological and paleobiological methods were shown to the school pupils and they participated in the investigation of the abovementioned caves. Local endemic leech of Racha *Dina rachaensis* was rediscovered in the entrance of Sakishore cave. Cave crickets, collembolans, molluscs, pseudo-scorpions, spiders and myriapods were sampled in the investigated caves. Three species of spiders, seven species of collembolans, one species of mollusc and 15 species of mites have already determined on the species level. Palynological material will be investigated to see the influence of anthropological factor on the cave environment. These Seminars and excursions increased motivation and interest of pupils to the disciplines such as biospeleology and speleology.



Dina rachaensis-local endemic of Racha region



Entrance of Dolabistavi Cave



Excursion in Kidobana Cave



Excursion in Usholta Cave



Presentation at school



Presentation for pupils



Seminar at school



Sampling in the Kidobana cave



Sampling in the Sakishore cave



Sampling in the Usholta cave