

ABSTRACT
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Hydrogeology and Cave Explorations of the Lost River Dobra: A Case Study of Underground Flow in the Dinaric Karst

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The Dinaric karst region covers about 50% of Croatian State territory. Due to well developed and diverse karst forms, both on the surface and underground the area is known as "classical karst". One of the well developed phenomenons are lost rivers, as the river Dobra in the NE part of the area. The Dobra River sinks in the very town of Ogulin and after 4.5 km reappears as the strong karst spring Gojak. In the eighties, the longest cave of Croatia has been explored at the entrance side, 16 391 m long Đulin ponor - Medvedica Cave System respectively. Recent explorations are directed towards the Gojak spring where the 2 166 m long Spring Cave Gojak has been discovered. The geomorphologic phenomenons of the area and its genesis are the result of lithological characteristics of rocks, geological structure, hydrological and hydrogeological relations. On this basis the possibility of further explorations and prospects for connection of cave systems have been made.