

Achievements of Bulgarian Pot-Holers

By V. GEORGIEV¹⁾

Spelaeology has made great progress in Bulgaria during the past few years. Thanks to the support of the Bulgarian Hiker's Union, there are now 38 clubs of spelaeologists with almost 900 members, who are keeping quite active.

In July 1964 an expedition organized by the Academic spelaeological club in Sofia reached a depth of 242 metres (about 800 feet) in the Ledenika Precipice at Zlosten, a village in the Kotel section of the Balkans. Overcoming several vertical springs, nine pot-holers attained the final siphon at the bottom of the last well.

About two months later a group of pot-holers, belonging to the Ivan Vazov Hiker's Association in Sofia, investigated the unknown Yamé precipice at Turgovishtë, a village near Belogradchik.

Surmounting many difficulties, in particular rolling stones, seven bold men reached the bottom of a small hall with an inaccessibly narrow crack, across which the murmur of running water was heard. With its 307 metres (about 1,000 feet), this is the deepest precipice yet discovered in Bulgaria.

This year Bulgarian pot-holers plan to organize several exploratory expeditions to caves and precipices in the Balkan and Rhodope Mountains. Spelaeologists from other countries will also take part in these expeditions.

¹⁾ Member of the Bureau of the National Spelaeological Committee at the Bulgarian Hikers' Union.