

## Shelter in Udorka Valley I - 2018 excavation season

by Maciej T. Krajcarz

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The rockshelter was excavated for the first time in 2013 by the team: Maciej T. Krajcarz (geologist), Magdalena Krajcarz (zooarchaeologist) and Magdalena Sudoł (archaeologist). This was done according to the methodology of test pitting, i.e., only the selected samples of sediments were taken for sieving and the sediment was removed by 10-cm thick (or 20-cm thick in the deeper part) mechanical layers. The pit size was 2x2 m, its maximum depth was slightly over 2 m. The bedrock has been exposed on the greater part of the excavation area. In archaeological field documentation, the site was named „Udórz III”, while the official name was given by A. Polonius [1].

The team came back to the rockshelter in June 2018, now supported by the archaeologist Agnieszka Sikorska and two PhD students of zooarchaeology, Martyna Wiejacka and Jan Wiejacki. Excavation lasted since June, 25th, until July, 16th.

The excavated area covered around 6 sq.m in total and the work was done according to the methodology of test pitting again. The main goal was to find the location of the entrance to a chamber, which was expected to be situated somewhere near the 2013 excavation area. According to the geophysical investigation conducted by researchers from the Silesian University [2], quite large chamber exists within the massif. This has been also indirectly confirmed by the occurrence of Pleistocene cave bear remains found in the secondary position (i.e., re-deposited) within the Holocene series. Their presence indicates close proximity of quite large chamber used by bears as their hibernation den.

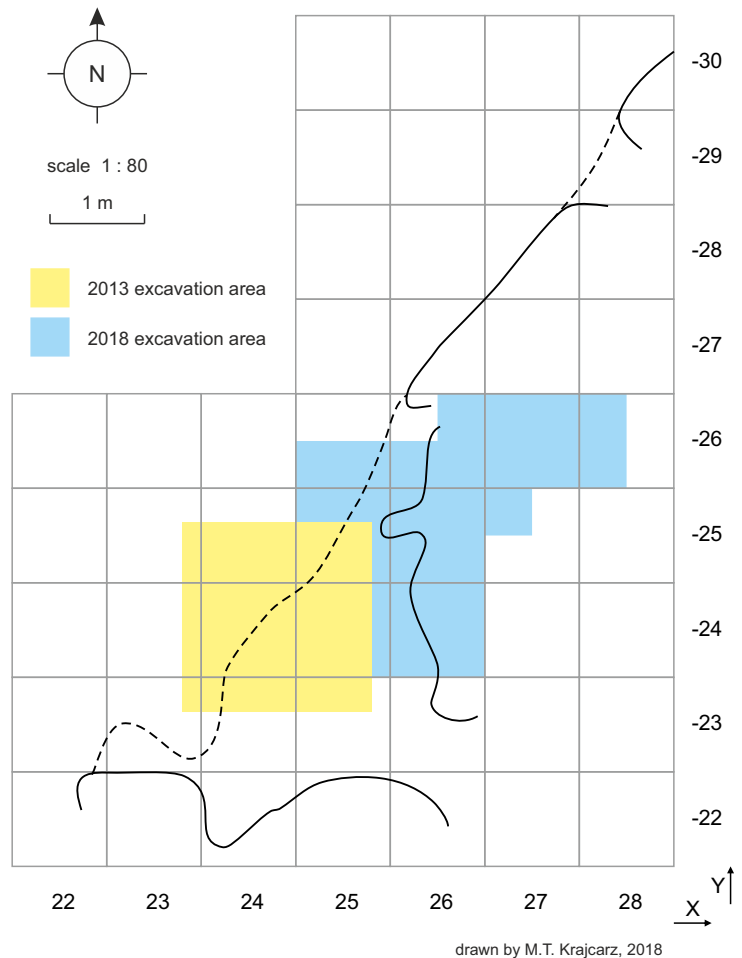
Our works revealed the presence of wide but low chamber situated to the north-east from the excavation area, at squares Y-26 to Y-30 / X28 to X30. This chamber contacts with the northern entrance, and most probably continues toward east. Unfortunately, the ceiling hangs so low that working inside is very difficult and uncomfortable. The entrance was blocked by large limestone boulder and it was necessary to use heavy hammers to remove it.

We recognized the stratigraphy of the chamber fill at Y-26 squares. Its thickness doesn't exceed 50 cm. It is mostly composed of Holocene humiferous sediments. These deposits are relatively young, as indicated by animal bones with visually fresh preservation state, and presence of 20th-century artifacts in the upper part of the profile.

At the entrance, we found an anthropogenic structure. It was a trench running parallel to the rock, with a wall inside. The wall was situated along the inner edge of the trench and blocked the entrance to the shelter. The wall was composed of limestone and chert boulders of around 20-40 cm diameter. Similar features occur at both entrances of Perspektywiczna Cave. The purpose of these trenches and walls stays unclear. However, the excavators suspect that they had a military function.

### References:

- [1] Grodzicki J. (Ed.) 2011. Jaskinie Wyżyny Częstochowskiej, vol. 4. Jaskinie Pasma Smoleńsko-Niegowonickiego. Wyd. PTPNoZ, Warszawa.
- [2] Sudoł-Procyk M., Krajcarz M.T., Krajcarz M., Wojenka M., Tyc A., Mendecki M. 2018. Schronisko w Dolinie Udorki I (gm. Wolbrom, woj. małopolskie). Wstępne wyniki badań oraz perspektywy na przyszłość. In: Materiały 52. Sympozjum Speleologicznego, pp. 78-80.



▲ In 2013 we used separate grids for Shelter in Udorka Valley I and for Perspektywiczna Cave. In 2018 we were equipped in a total station, so we were able to transpose the grid from Perspektywiczna Cave to the shelter. Therefore the 2013 pit doesn't fit to the 2018 grid.



▲ One of several 20th-century artifacts excavated from the sediments of Shelter in Udorka Valley I during the 2018 excavation season. This plastic bottle has tooth marks, most probably left by fox. It seems that animals brought the bottle, as well as the wooden sticks, leaves, fragments of plastic foil and cloth, to use it as a lining of their den.

Photo by Maciej T. Krajcarz

## Nests of the northern wren in Shelter in Udorka Valley I and Perspektywiczna Cave

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During the 2018 excavations we heard a quiet twitter in the cave. Later it came out that there is a bird's nest in a small rock pocket in the cave ceiling. The nest was located nearby the archaeological trench. It was made of mosses and leaves, and was inhabited by northern wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). Two birds visited the nest around each 15 minutes and fed chicks. One was adult and the other one immature, probably a grown-up chick from the previous hatching. After we discovered the nest, we observed the birds and their reaction, and were ready to stop our works to not disturb the brood. However, the birds seemed not to be afraid of us. They rather observed us and were interested in the excavated earth. They brought the insects for chicks and removed their poops in beaks. If the poop felt down, they picked it up and took away. On July, 5th (i.e., after 2 weeks) we found the nest empty; the chicks had grown up and flew away. We haven't seen the wren family anymore.



◀ It was not easy to make a photograph of wrens, so fast and flickering they were. This is one of the best pictures we made in 2018 using the telephoto lens. It shows the adult bird emerging from the nest. Photo by Magdalena Krajcarz

The entrance of the shelter, with the position of wren's nest indicated by an arrow. It was situated less than 1 meter above the ground.

Photo by Magdalena Krajcarz ▼



It is noteworthy that we observed wren's nest also during 2016 campaign. Then, the nest appeared on the very last days of the excavations, what means that our presence and activity did not disturb anyhow the bird's choice of nesting place. The 2016 nest was situated also very close to the excavation area, which was the lower entrance of Perspektywiczna Cave. Once again, it was situated on a rock, inside a small cavern, around 3 m above the ground. We observed the adult wren feeding very young chicks. The photos were shot on the last day of the excavation season, so we don't know a further story of the wren family during that year.



◀ ▲ The 2016 nest was built from moss and thin wooden sticks. At least two chicks lived inside. We noticed only one adult bird feeding the chicks. It often visited the small earth heap remained after sieving of collapsed sediments (see Newsletter #3), where it searched for earthworms and insects.

Photos by Magdalena Krajcarz

## Golden Cave Hyena competition 2018

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The excavation team of Perspektywiczna Cave decided that since 2018 on, an excavator who found the best find of the season is to be glorified. The award will be Golden Cave Hyena, a honorable distinction accompanied by a trophy - a statuette of golden hyena. Jurors of the competition are a main archaeologist, a main paleozoologist and a main geologist of the site.

2018 Golden Cave Hyena trophy. The sculpture includes recycled materials: a metal wire (a frame for figurine), PVC pipes (the base) and aluminum foil (infill of the base and the figurine).

Photo by Maciej T. Krajcarz ▶

The 2018 statuette was sculpted by Maciej T. Krajcarz from epoxy putty. It represents a humanoid hyena standing on a pedestal with inscription „Złota hiena jaskiniowa 2018” (which means “Golden Cave Hyena 2018” in Polish).

This year the Golden Cave Hyena was rewarded to Mrs. Martyna Wiejacka, M.Sc., for finding a human tooth in Shelter in Udorka Valley I.



### Instruction for authors

Around the *Perspektywiczna Cave Newsletter* is publishing any reports or other materials concerning the Perspektywiczna Cave or related subjects that may give background for any phenomenon studied in the Cave. The editor especially encourages to publish here:

- excavation reports or their summaries;
- reports of archaeological prospection and testing in the nearby

or similar area;

- observations of natural and cultural processes and phenomena nearby, that might affect the Cave, either currently or in the past, or are predicted to be important in the future;
- photographic reportages;
- any other short reports, reportages, interviews, graphics or essays concerning the speleology, geomorphology, geology, climatology, archaeology, paleontology, biology, social

perception, and natural or cultural heritage of Perspektywiczna Cave and widely regarded relative issues.

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