

**KNJIGA SAŽETAKA
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**



**TRAGOVI
DINOSAURA**
IZMEĐU ZNANOSTI I OČUVANJA

**TRAGOVI DINOSAURA –
IZMEĐU ZNANOSTI I OČUVANJA**

***DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS –
BETWEEN SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION***

**14. – 16. 10. 2025.
VELI BRIJUN, HRVATSKA / CROATIA**

ZNANSTVENO-STRUČNI SKUP / SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

IMPRESSUM

KNJIGA SAŽETAKA I VODIČ EKSKURZIJE 1. ZNANSTVENO-STRUČNOG SKUPA
“TRAGOVİ DINOSAURA - IZMEĐU ZNANOSTI I OČUVANJA”

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS AND EXCURSION GUIDE BOOK OF THE 1ST SCIENTIFIC
AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE “DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS – BETWEEN SCIENCE
AND CONSERVATION”

ORGANIZATORI / ORGANIZED BY:

Javna ustanova „Nacionalni park Brijuni“ / Public Institution „National Park Brijuni“

Javna ustanova „Kamenjak“ / Public Institution „Kamenjak“

Javna ustanova za upravljanje zaštićenim dijelovima prirode na području Istarske županije „Natura Histrica“
/ Public Institution „Natura Histrica“

Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i zelene tranzicije, zavod za zaštitu okoliša i prirode / Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Green Transition

Geološki odsjek Prirodoslovno-matematičkog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu / Hrvatsko geološko društvo –
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DIZAJN / DESIGN:

atelier ANII

FOTOGRAFIJA NA NASLOVNOJ STRANICI / PHOTO ON THE FRONT PAGE:

Fosilni otisak malog teropodnog dinosaura s rta Ploče, Veliki Brijun, autor fotografije: Damir Pocrnić /

Fossil footprint of a small theropod dinosaur from Cape Ploče, Veliki Brijun, photo by Damir Pocrnić

IZRADA LOGOTIPA / LOGOTYPE PRODUCTION:

Zoran Pleše

IZDANO / ISSUED:

Listopad / October, 2025.

(100 primjeraka / 100 copies)

ISBN: 978-953-7264-16-1

ZNANSTVENO-STRUČNI SKUP „TRAGOVİMA DINOSAURA –
IZMEĐU ZNANOSTI I OČUVANJA“

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS –
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GEOLOŠKI ODSJEK
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PRIRODOSLOVNO-MATEMATIČKI FAKULTET



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UVODNA RIJEČ

Sve je počelo davne 1925. godine kad je austrijski industrijalac Adolf Bachofen–Echt šetajući po Velom Brijunu na jednoj od slojnih ploha kraj obale mora uočio troprste otiske stopala dinosaura. To je otkriće tada predstavljalo prvi nalaz otisaka stopala dinosaura južno od Alpa, a i prvi zabilježeni dokaz o prisutnosti dinosaura na području Hrvatske (odnosno nekadašnje Jadranske karbonatne platforme).

Od tada pa do danas mnogo se toga promijenilo, ne samo stajalište o dinosaurima kao glupim i tromim gmazovima, već i pristup i metodologija koji se upotrebljavaju prilikom istraživanja. Intenzivnija istraživanja dinosaura u Hrvatskoj započela su tek početkom 90-ih godina prošlog stoljeća, sukladno općem svjetskom trendu povećanog zanimanja za ovu skupinu kralježnjaka. Tim su istraživanjima, koja su provodili talijanski, slovenski i hrvatski znanstvenici, otkrivena brojna nova nalazišta otisaka stopala dinosaura, ali i njihovih kostiju.

Nakon 30-ak godina novih spoznaja i otkrića danas je naše znanje o dinosaurima na ovim prostorima umnogome potpunije nego ikad prije, kako s paleobiološkog tako i s paleogeografskog stajališta. Ono je i pridonijelo tome da se neke stare koncepcije i teorije nanovo ispituju i provjere, te usklade s novim spoznajama.

Kako je rastao broj novootkrivenih nalaza tako je rasla i svjesnost o neprocjenjivom prirodnom bogatstvu koje nam se nalazi nadohvat ruke, a koje zahtjeva i adekvatan stupanj zaštite i skrbi. Prijedlog zaštite pokrenut je zbog očuvanja vrijedne i atraktivne paleontološke baštine od znanstvenog i edukativnog, državnog i međunarodnog značaja, a zbog učestalih uništavanja i otuđivanja fosilnih nalaza.

Ministarstvo gospodarstva i održivog razvoja RH 2021. godine donijelo je Rješenje o proglašenju 24 nalazišta fosila dinosaura (23 nalazišta s otiscima stopala i jednog s kostima) zaštićenim dijelovima prirode na području Istarske, Splitsko-dalmatinske i Zadarske županije. Od tada su hrvatski dinosauri konačno zakonski zaštićeni dok je daljnja briga i upravljanje prepušteno Javnim ustanovama za upravljanje zaštićenim dijelovima prirode.

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INTRODUCTION

Everything began back in 1925, when Austrian industrialist Adolf Bachofen–Echt, while walking along the coast of Veli Brijun, noticed three-toed dinosaur footprints preserved on one of the layered rock surfaces near the sea. This discovery represented the first find of dinosaur footprints south of the Alps, as well as the first recorded evidence of dinosaur presence in what is today Croatia (i.e., the former Adriatic carbonate platform).

Since then, much has changed — not only our perception of dinosaurs as slow and unintelligent reptiles, but also the approaches and methods used in their study. More intensive research on dinosaurs in Croatia began only in the early 1990s, following the global trend of increasing interest in this group of vertebrates. Through these studies, conducted by Italian, Slovenian, and Croatian scientists, numerous new sites with dinosaur footprints — as well as bones — were discovered.

After some thirty years of new insights and discoveries, our knowledge of dinosaurs in this region is now far more complete than ever before, both from a paleobiological and paleogeographical perspective. This progress has also prompted the re-examination and verification of older concepts and theories, aligning them with the latest findings.

As the number of newly discovered sites grew, so too did awareness of the priceless natural heritage at our fingertips — a heritage that requires proper protection and care. The initiative for protection was launched to preserve this valuable and attractive paleontological legacy of scientific, educational, national, and international importance, especially in light of frequent cases of fossil destruction and theft.

In 2021, Croatia’s Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development issued a decree proclaiming 24 dinosaur fossil sites (23 with footprints and one with bones) as protected natural areas in the counties of Istria, Split-Dalmatia, and Zadar. Since then, Croatian dinosaurs have finally been granted legal protection, with further management and care entrusted to the Public Institutions for the Management of Protected Natural Areas.

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NALAZIŠTA FOSILA DINOSAURA U HRVATSKOJ

Na temelju Rješenja o proglašenju fosila dinosaura i njihovih nalazišta zaštićenim dijelovima prirode („Narodne novine“, broj 40/2021) iz 2021. godine na području Republike Hrvatske zaštićena su 24 nalazišta od kojih se 21 nalazi na području Istarske županije dok se dva nalazišta nalaze na području Split-sko-dalmatinske županije (Park prirode Biokovo i uvala Žukova na otoku Hvaru) i jedno na području Zadarske županije (Kameničina/Brbišćica na Dugom otoku). Stvarni broj nalazišta zapravo je veći jer su u međuvremenu otkrivena i nova nalazišta kako u Istri tako i u Dalmaciji.

Na području Istarske županije nalazištima upravljaju: Javna ustanova „Natura Histrica“ (15), Javna ustanova Nacionalni park Brijuni (4), Javna ustanova „Kamenjak“ (2). Nalazištem Biokovo upravlja Javna ustanova Park prirode „Biokovo“, nalazištem Žukova Javna ustanova „More i krš“ a nalazištem Kameničina/Brbišćica Javna ustanova „Natura Jadera“.

Pojedina nalazišta nalaze se unutar zaštićenih područja: Nacionalnog parka „Brijuni“ (4), Parka prirode „Biokovo“ (1), Posebnog rezervata „Datule Barbariga“ (1), Posebnog rezervata „Palud“ (2), Značajnog krajobraza „Rovinjski otoci i priobalno područje“ (3) te Značajnog krajobraza „Donji Kamenjak međulinski arhipelag“ (2).

Geološki gledano najstarije nalazište jesu nalazišta Kirmenjak I i II na zapadnom dijelu Istre u aktivnom kamenolomu blizu Poreča. Stijene datiraju iz razdoblja gornje jure prije otprilike 145 milijuna godina. S druge strane, nalazišta Lovrečica kod Červara u Istri, Ladin Gaj u blizini Umaga, Grakalovac i Fenoliga u južnoj Istri (Kamenjak), Kamenčina/Brbišćica na Dugom otoku i Biokovo u istoimenom parku prirode geološki su najmlađi i stratigrafski pripadaju gornjoj kredi, prije otprilike 90 milijuna godina. Time možemo zaključiti kako su dinosauri na prostoru današnje Hrvatske boravili preko 70 milijuna godina što je stvarno impozantan broj.

Otisci sauropodih dinosaura pronađeni su na 15, teropodnih na 13, a otisci ornitopodnih dinosaura na dva nalazišta. Na nalazištu Lanterna na zapadnoj obali Istre kod Červara zbog devastacije nalazišta determinacija otisaka nije moguća, ali na temelju dostupnih fotografija prije devastacije pretpostavlja se mogućnost prisustva i dvonožnih ornitopoda.

DINOSAUR FOSSIL SITES IN CROATIA

Based on the *Decree on the Designation of Dinosaur Fossils and Their Sites as Protected Natural Areas* (“Official Gazette”, No. 40/2021), issued in 2021, a total of 24 sites have been designated as protected areas within the Republic of Croatia. Of these, 21 are located in Istria County, two in Split-Dalmatia County (Biokovo Nature Park and Žukova Bay on the island of Hvar), and one in Zadar County (Kameničina/Brbišćica on Dugi Otok). The actual number of sites is in fact higher, as new sites have since been discovered both in Istria and in Dalmatia.

In Istria County, the sites are managed by the following public institutions: Public Institution “Natura Histrica” (15), Public Institution „Brijuni National Park“ (4), and Public Institution “Kamenjak” (2). The Biokovo site is managed by the Public Institution „Biokovo Nature Park“, the Žukova site by the Public Institution “More i krš”, and the Kameničina/Brbišćica site by the Public Institution “Natura Jadera”.

Several sites are located within existing protected areas: Brijuni National Park (4), Biokovo Nature Park (1), Datule Barbariga Special Reserve (1), Palud Special Reserve (2), Rovinj Islands and Coastal Area Significant Landscape (3), and Donji Kamenjak and Medulin Archipelago Significant Landscape (2).

From a geological perspective, the oldest sites are Kirmenjak I and II in western Istria, located in an active quarry near Poreč. The rocks date back to the Upper Jurassic period, about 145 million years ago. On the other hand, the sites at Lovrečica near Červar, Ladin Gaj near Umag, Grakalovac and Fenoliga in southern Istria (Kamenjak), Kameničina/Brbišćica on Dugi Otok, and Biokovo Nature Park are geologically the youngest, belonging to the Upper Cretaceous period, about 90 million years ago. This means that dinosaurs inhabited what is now Croatia for more than 70 million years — an impressive span of time.

Sauropod footprints have been found at 15 sites, theropod footprints at 13, and ornithopod footprints at two. At the Lanterna site on the western coast of Istria near Červar, due to site devastation, footprint identification is no longer possible, although photographs taken before the damage suggest the presence of bipedal ornithopods.

Slika 5: Staza kretanja sauropoda s otočića Fenoliga (Kamenjak), gornji cenoman, gornja kreda, starosti 105 milijuna godina; autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga

Figure 5: Sauropod trackway from the islet of Fenoliga (Kamenjak), Upper Cenomanian, Late Cretaceous, approximately 105 million years old; photo by Aleksandar Mezga.

Većina nalaza (njih 22) sačuvana je na mjestu nalaza (in situ), dok se nalazi s četiri nalazišta čuvaju i/ili ex situ. Kostī s nalazišta Datule Barbariga/Kolone u jugozapadnoj Istri nalaze se u privatnoj galeriji u Balama, otisci s nalazišta Lanterna u muzejima u Milanu, Trstu i privatnim zbirakama izvan granica Hrvatske, otisci s nalazišta Ploče na Velom Brijunu u sklopu geološko-paleontološke zbirke NP Brijuni i dio otisaka s nalazišta Kirmenjak I ispred Prirodoslovno-matematičkog fakulteta u Zagrebu.

Na gotovo svim nalazištima (njih 23) pronađeni su ihnofosili odnosno otisci (tragovi), osim nalazišta Datule-Barbariga/Kolone gdje su pronađene kosti. To nalazište uživa i veliku međunarodnu važnost jer je jedno od tri nalazišta na području nekadašnje AdCP-a (Jadranske karbonatne platforme) na kojima su pronađene kosti dinosaura.

Osim ovog nalazišta međunarodno vrijedna nalazišta još su i Fenoliga (zajednički nalazi sauropodnih i teropodnih otisaka na jednom mjestu te vidljiva brazda u nasipu otiska), Plješivac/Kamik na Velom Brijunu (jedini nalaz ornitopodnih dinosaura), Solaris I i II (jedni od najbogatijih nalazišta s velikim brojem otisaka i staza na istoj slojnoj plohi), Gustinja na zapadnoj obali Istre kod Rovinja (nekoliko horizonata otisaka i pojava dinoturbacija), Kirmenjak I i II (najstariji dokaz o prisutnosti dinosaura na području RH te najveće nalazište u ovom dijelu Europe) te Žukova na otoku Hvaru (nalazište otisaka koji pripadaju najvećim dinosaurima koji su živjeli na AdCP-u).

Veći broj nalazišta, njih 16 nije označeno dok za tri nalazišta postoje putokazi (signalizacija), za pet edukacijske i interpretacijske ploče, za jedno osnovne informativne ploče, a za jedno postoji samo oznaka na karti autokampa. U sustavu posjećivanja nalaze se četiri nalazišta: Ploče i Pogledalo/Barban na Velom Brijunu, Grakalovac (Kamenjak) te Palud. Edukacija o vrijednosti i važnosti nalaza fosila dinosaura provodi se za šest nalazišta i to većinom u interpretacijskim centrima a manji broj na samim nalazištima.

Zbog negativnog prirodnog utjecaja (abrazija, korozija, biokorozije i dr.), velikog antropogenog utjecaja (posjetitelji, turist, ilegalni sakupljači fosila i dr.) i velikih oštećenja možemo reći da su sva nalazišta loše očuvana. Nakon provedene analize odnosno vrednovanja ustanovljeno je da i dalje postoje stanoviti pritisci i prijetnje zbog kojih je opstanak svih nalazišta ugrožen. Za 13 nalazišta utvrđeno je da je stanje loše i zabrinjavajuće, 11 nalazišta još su uvijek u dobrom stanju uz mala oštećenja dok je samo jedno nalazište (Lanterna) devastirano. Na svim nalazištima prisutan je prirodni utjecaj a na većini (19) i negativan antropogeni utjecaj.

Zbog svojeg povoljnog tektonskog razvoja, dugotrajne prisutnosti kopnenih faza, velikog broja kamenoloma s otvorenim slojnim plohama koje se nerijetko javljaju na samoj obali i dugoj povijesti geološko-paleontoloških istraživanja, Istra prednjači u broju otkrivenih nalazišta fosila dinosaura u odnosu na

Most finds (22) are preserved *in situ*, while fossils from four sites are also kept *ex situ*. Dinosaur bones from the Datule Barbariga/Kolone site in southwestern Istria are held in a private gallery in Bale; footprints from the Lanterna site are preserved in museums in Milan and Trieste and in private collections abroad; footprints from the Ploče site on Veli Brijun are part of the geological–paleontological collection of Brijuni National Park; and some footprints from the Kirmenjak I site are displayed in front of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb.

At nearly all sites (23 in total), *ichnofossils* — that is, footprints or traces — have been found, except at the Datule Barbariga/Kolone site, where dinosaur bones were discovered. This site is of great international significance, as it is one of only three known localities on the former Adriatic-Dinaric Carbonate Platform (AdCP) where dinosaur bones have been found.

Other internationally important sites include Fenoliga (with both sauropod and theropod footprints preserved together, as well as visible drag marks), Plješivac/Kamik on Veli Brijun (the only site with ornithopod footprints), Solaris I and II (among the richest sites, containing a large number of footprints and trackways on a single bedding surface), Gustinja on the western Istrian coast near Rovinj (with several footprint horizons and evidence of dinoturbation), Kirmenjak I and II (the oldest evidence of dinosaur presence in Croatia and the largest site of its kind in this part of Europe), and Žukova on the island of Hvar (with footprints belonging to the largest dinosaurs known from the AdCP).

A majority of the sites (16) remain unmarked, while three have directional signs, five have educational and interpretive panels, one has a basic informational board, and one is marked only on a campsite map. Four sites — Ploče and Pogledalo/Barban on Veli Brijun, Grakalovac (Kamenjak), and Palud — are currently included in visitor systems. Educational programs on the value and importance of dinosaur fossil finds are conducted at six sites, mostly in interpretive centers and, to a lesser extent, directly at the sites themselves.

Due to natural degradation (abrasion, corrosion, bio-corrosion, etc.), significant anthropogenic impacts (visitors, tourism, illegal fossil collecting, etc.), and substantial damage, most sites are in poor condition. Evaluations show that persistent pressures and threats continue to endanger the survival of all sites. Thirteen are in poor or concerning condition, eleven remain in good condition with minor damage, and only one (Lanterna) has been completely devastated. All sites are affected by natural processes, and most (19) are also exposed to negative human impact.

Because of its favorable tectonic development, long-lasting terrestrial phases, numerous quarries with exposed bedding planes (often directly along the coast), and its long history of geological and paleontological research, Istria leads the rest of Croatia in the number of known dinosaur fossil sites — 21 out

ostatak Hrvatske (čak 21 nalazište od njih ukupno 24 nalazi se u Istri). O istarskim nalazištima brinu tri javne ustanove: JU Kamenjak, JU Nacionalni park Brijuni i JU Natura Histrica.

Poluotok Kamenjak uživa veliku paleontološku važnost zbog otisaka stopala dinosaura pronađenih na dva nalazišta: otočiću Fenoligi i Rtu Grakalovcu. Procjenjuje se da se na nalazištu Fenoligi nalazi 139 otisaka. Ovaj je lokalitet poseban jer su na istom mjestu pronađeni otisci i mesojednih i biljojednih dinosaura u istom sedimentnom sloju od kojih je većina otiska grupirana u staze. Najveća staza dužine 19,5 m sastoji se od 39 sukcesivnih otisaka životinje koja se kretala četveronoške. Te su kružno-eliptične otiske veličine 30 – 40 cm, na kojima se često mogu uočiti i tragovi zdepastih prstiju, ostavili biljojedni dinosauri – sauropodi. Drugi tip otisaka jesu teropodi koji su na Kamenjaku bili i brojnošću i veličinom manji od sauropoda. Prosječna veličina bila je samo 3 metra.

Nacionalni park Brijuni na svojem području službeno broji 4 nalazišta, međutim ukupni broj nalazišta je dvostruko veći – 8 od kojih su samo 2 dostupna za posjećivanje. 4 nalazišta na otoku Veliki Brijun bila su uvrštena u službeni popis prilikom izrade proglašenja dinosaura zaštićenim djelom prirode, dok ostala 4 nalazišta, koja su smještena na otocima Vanga, Galija i Vrsar nisu te će ih se uvrstiti prilikom ažuriranja popisa zajedno s drugim novim nalazištima u Republici Hrvatskoj.

Zanimljivost je to da se na malom području može naći 5 različitih tipova otisaka dinosaura od velikih teropodnih mesoždera, preko srednje velikih biljojednih ornitopoda, malih teropodnih mesoždera, malih biljojednih ornitopoda i srednje velikih, dugovratih sauropoda.

Svakako je u tome pomogla i činjenica da su Brijuni stoljećima bili pogon za eksploataciju kamena zbog čega su se otkrivale velike, horizontalne plohe vapnenca na kojima se danas, kada je vađenje kamena završeno, uočavaju fosilni otisci tragova.

Nalazišta pod nadležnošću Javne ustanove Natura Histrica nalaze se diljem zapadne istarske obale, dok se samo jedan lokalitet nalazi nekoliko kilometra udaljen od obale prema unutrašnjosti. Zaštita i očuvanje fosila dinosaura težak je, mukotrpan i dugoročan posao za Javnu ustanovu, jer, osim ljudske ruke, na očuvanost fosila utječu prirodni procesi poput korozije, erozije i abrazije morskih obala na kojima su fosili pronađeni. U suradnji s vodećim hrvatskim i regionalnim stručnjacima te lokalnim stanovništvom, Javna ustanova Natura Histrica vodi brigu o očuvanju svih nalazišta pod njenom ingerencijom.

Od 15 nalazišta ističu se dva. Jedno je posebni paleontološki rezervat Datule-Barbariga, koji predstavlja jedinstveno nalazište koštanih ostataka dinosaura na teritoriju Republike Hrvatske. Talijanski ronilac Dario Boscariolli tamo je početkom 90-ih godina prošloga stoljeća pronašao prve koštane fosile dinosaura. Pronađene fosile predao je poznatom talijanskom paleontologu Fabiu Dalla Vecchia koji je odmah započeo s istraživanjima.

of the 24 in total. The Istrian sites are managed by three public institutions: PI Kamenjak, PI Brijuni National Park, and PI Natura Histrica.

The Kamenjak Peninsula holds great paleontological significance due to dinosaur footprints discovered at two sites — Fenoliga islet and Cape Grakalovac. It is estimated that Fenoliga contains 139 footprints. The site is remarkable because both carnivorous and herbivorous dinosaur footprints are found in the same sedimentary layer, most grouped into trackways. The longest trackway, measuring 19.5 meters, consists of 39 successive footprints left by a quadrupedal animal. These circular-elliptical footprints, 30–40 cm in diameter and often showing traces of stubby toes, were made by herbivorous sauropods. The other type of footprints belong to theropods, which were both smaller and less numerous on Kamenjak, averaging around 3 meters in length.

Brijuni National Park officially lists four sites, though the total number is actually eight, of which only two are open to visitors. Four sites on the island of Veliki Brijun were included in the official register when dinosaurs were proclaimed a protected natural feature, while the other four, located on the islands of Vanga, Galija, and Vrsar, will be added in the next update of the register, together with other newly discovered sites in Croatia. Interestingly, within a small area, five distinct types of dinosaur footprints can be found — from large theropod carnivores and medium-sized herbivorous ornithopods to small theropods, small ornithopods, and medium-sized long-necked sauropods. This diversity was made possible by centuries of quarrying on Brijuni, which exposed large horizontal limestone surfaces where fossilized dinosaur footprints can now be seen, long after quarrying ended.

The sites managed by the Public Institution *Natura Histrica* are distributed along the western Istrian coast, with only one located a few kilometers inland. Protecting and preserving dinosaur fossils is a demanding, painstaking, and long-term task for the institution, as fossil preservation is influenced not only by human activity but also by natural processes such as corrosion, erosion, and coastal abrasion. In cooperation with leading Croatian and regional experts, as well as local communities, Natura Histrica works to ensure the conservation of all sites under its jurisdiction.

Among the 15 sites it manages, two stand out. The first is the „Datule-Barbariga Special Paleontological Reserve“, the only site in Croatia with dinosaur bone remains. In the early 1990s, Italian diver Dario Boscariolli discovered the first dinosaur bone fossils there. He handed the finds over to renowned Italian paleontologist Fabio Marco Dalla Vecchia, who immediately began research and later presented the results at the World Paleontology Congress in Beijing, earning Datule-Barbariga a place on the *World List of Important Paleontological Sites*. The area was declared a special paleontological reserve in 1994.

Rezultate je predstavio na svjetskom kongresu paleontologa u Pekingu, čime su lokalitet Datula-Barbariga uvrstili na Svjetski popis važnih paleontoloških nalazišta. Područje je proglašeno posebnim paleontološkim rezervatom 1994. godine.

Drugo važno nalazište nalazi se kod mjesta Kirmenjak, nekoliko kilometara udaljeno od Poreča, u jednom aktivnom kamenolomu. Tamo je 2001. godine pronađeno preko 970 stopa dinosaura na jednoj slojnoj plohi. Osim brojnosti stopa, zanimljiva je činjenica da neke stope, njih 161, tvore 23 staze kretanja. Lokaliziranje i proučavanje staza kretanja dinosaura omogućava detaljnije proučavanje njihove građe. Dodatna važnost ovoga nalazišta je ta da su ti otisci stopa dinosaura mnogo starijeg postanka od svih ostalih. Ta se starost povezuje uz geološku eru mlađe jure, odnosno prije 145-164 milijuna godina.

Ostala nalazišta nalaze se na samoj obalnoj crti, na mjestu kontakta mora i kopna, gdje im prijeti opasnost od prirodnog uništenja djelovanjem valova, plima i oseka, te ljudi koji svojim nepromišljenim ponašanjem mogu u tren uništiti ono što je ostalo očuvano milijunima godina. Sva nalazišta u Istri imaju veliku znanstvenu i edukativnu važnost, te se kao takva moraju očuvati za buduće naraštaje.

Gledajući današnju kartu svijeta, teško je shvatiti koliko je planet Zemlja dinamičan u svojim morfološkim promjenama. Uslijed procesa u Zemljinoj unutrašnjosti, kontinenti su mijenjali svoje položaje i oblike, sudarali bi se i odvajali, tamo gdje je nekada bilo kopno danas je more, a tamo gdje je nekada bilo more danas je kopno. Istarski poluotok u doba donje jure, prije cca. 180 milijuna godina, nije postojao kao danas, već se tada kao dio jedne velike karbonatne platforme tek počinjao formirati kao sedimentna stijena u plitkim lagunama paleooceana imena Tethys.

U doba dinosaura, stijene današnjeg istarskog poluotoka nalazile su se na području današnjeg Egipta, te su tijekom otprilike 180 milijuna godina prevalile put do današnjeg položaja. Istarski poluotok je današnji izgled dobio prije 10 000 godina kada je završila zadnja oledba.

The second major site is located near the village of Kirmenjak, a few kilometers from Poreč, in an active quarry. In 2001, more than 970 dinosaur footprints were discovered on a single bedding plane. Interestingly, 161 of these footprints form 23 trackways, providing valuable data for studying dinosaur locomotion. This site is also significant for its age — the footprints are much older than those at other localities, dating to the Late Jurassic, about 145–164 million years ago.

Other sites are located directly along the coastline, at the interface between land and sea, where they are at risk of natural destruction from waves, tides, and human negligence, which can instantly destroy what has survived for millions of years. All Istrian sites hold great scientific and educational value and must therefore be preserved for future generations.

Looking at a modern map of the world, it is difficult to imagine how dynamic Earth has been in its morphological evolution. Due to geological processes within the Earth’s interior, continents have shifted, collided, and separated over time; areas that were once land are now under the sea, and former seabeds have become dry land. During the Early Jurassic period, about 180 million years ago, the Istrian Peninsula did not exist as we know it today — instead, it was forming as part of a vast carbonate platform in the shallow lagoons of the Tethys Ocean. During the age of the dinosaurs, the rocks that now make up the Istrian Peninsula were located near the region of present-day Egypt and gradually drifted to their current position over a span of roughly 180 million years. The Istrian Peninsula attained its present appearance about 10,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age.



KAKO JE SVE POČELO?

HOW IT ALL STARTED?



STOLJEĆE ISTRAŽIVANJA OTISAKA STOPALA DINOSAURA NA BRIJUNIMA – OD OTKRIĆA DO DINO-SKULPTURE

A CENTURY OF DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS RESEARCH ON BRIJUNI – FROM TRACK DISCOVERY TO DINO-SKULPTURE

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Ključne riječi: Brijuni, paleontološka istraživanja, povijest istraživanja, edukacija

Keywords: Brijuni, paleontological research, history of research, education

Slika 6: Adolf Bachofen von Echt, osobni portret; (izvor: <https://picclick.de/%C3%96lgem%C3%A4lde-Adolf-Bachofen-v-Echt-Wien-Adolf-I-334046218848.html>); autor fotografije: Adolf Schreitter von Schwarzenfeld Stariji (1854. – 1923.)

Figure 6: Adolf Bachofen von Echt, personal portrait (source: <https://picclick.de/Ölgemälde-Adolf-Bachofen-v-Echt-Wien-Adolf-I-334046218848.html>); Photo by: Adolf Schreitter von Schwarzenfeld Senior (1854. – 1923.).

IN MEMORIAM ANTI POLŠAKU¹, MARTINU LOCKLEYU² I STJEPANU GRAČANU³

Obilježavanje objave prvih otisaka stopala dinosaura na području Hrvatske, a i šire, prava je prilika da bolje upoznamo velikog istraživača zaslužnog za ovaj značajan nalaz. Prvu informaciju o otkriću tragova dinosaura na Brijunima dugujemo austrijskom industrijalcu i paleontologu barunu Adolfu Karlu Bachofen von Echtu (1864. – 1947.). Iako je opće poznato da je bio vlasnik (zapravo suvlasnik) pivovare u Nussdorfu (danas dio Beča) manje je znano da je bio i educirani paleontolog.

Titulu doktora znanosti (Dr. phil.) stekao je na Bečkom sveučilištu 26. ožujka 1925. kod Othenija Abela i Carla Dienera s disertacijom *Paläobiologische Studien aus der Drachenhöhle bei Mixnitz in Steiermark*. Tijekom uspješne znanstvene karijere istraživao je i pleistocenske sisavce, posebno jelene, a u području istraživanja jantara smatra se pionirom mikrofotografije inkluzija, posebice kukaca. S obzirom da je imao strastveni interes za proučavanje svih fosiliziranih oblika kukaca i njihovih dijelova, o toj temi napisao je veći broj članaka. Veliki dio njegove opsežne zbirke jantara danas se nalazi na Sveučilištima u Münchenu i Beču (SVOJTKA, 2019).

Za vrijeme boravka na Brijunima početkom rujna 1924., u stijenama južnog dijela otoka uočio je otiske stopala dinosaura. Bilo je to vrlo važno otkriće, posebno značajno jer se radilo o prvim tragovima kretanja dinosaura južno od Alpa. Na otok je došao 6. rujna (Državni arhiv u Pazinu), a o svom pronalasku i opažanjima vezanim uz najmanje pet jedinki različitih veličina pripisanih iguanodonima, izvijestio je kratko već na sjednici Paleontološkog društva u Eichstättu (Njemačka) održanoj desetak dana kasnije (BACHOFEN-ECHT, 1925). Nakon svega pet mjeseci, na sjednici Razreda za matematičke i prirodne znanosti Akademije znanosti u Beču, 12. veljače 1925. izložio je nešto opširniji opis dva različita tipa otisaka. Krupne tridaktilne tragove pripisao je rodu Iguanodon, a kružne otiske s vidljivim tragovima kandži kornjačama (BACHOFEN-ECHT, 1926). Lokalitet na kojem je pronašao otiske nazvao je *Capo Rocca*. Iako taj toponim ne nalazimo na ondašnjim kartama, opis lokaliteta (“horizontalni sloj neposredno iznad razine mora često plavljen plimom” na kojem je “veliki broj vidljivih, iako vrlo erodiranih otisaka stopala...”, blizina Pule, kao i visina desetmetarske sti-

IN MEMORIAM ANTE POLŠAK¹, MARTIN LOCKLEY² AND STJEPAN GRAČAN³

Commemorating the publication of the first dinosaur footprint discoveries in Croatia—and beyond—is an excellent opportunity to become better acquainted with the eminent researcher responsible for this significant find. The first information about the discovery of dinosaur tracks on the Brijuni Islands is owed to the Austrian industrialist and paleontologist Baron Adolf Karl Bachofen von Echt (1864–1947). Although it is widely known that he was the owner (technically co-owner) of a brewery in Nussdorf (today part of Vienna), it is less known that he was also a trained paleontologist.

He earned the title of Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.) at the University of Vienna on March 26, 1925, under Othenio Abel and Carl Diener with his dissertation *Paläobiologische Studien aus der Drachenhöhle bei Mixnitz in Steiermark*. During a successful scientific career, he also researched Pleistocene mammals, particularly deers, and in the field of amber studies, he is considered a pioneer of microphotography of inclusions, especially insects. As he had a passionate interest in studying all fossilized forms of insects and their parts, he wrote numerous articles on the topic. A large portion of his extensive amber collection is now housed at the Universities of Munich and Vienna (SVOJTKA, 2019).

During his stay on the Brijuni Islands in early September 1924, he observed dinosaur footprints in the rocks of the southern part of the island. This was a highly significant discovery, particularly notable as it was the first evidence of dinosaur movement south of the Alps. He arrived on the island on September 6 (State Archives in Pazin), and he briefly reported his findings and observations related to at least five individuals of different sizes attributed to Iguanodons at a meeting of the Paleontological Society in Eichstätt (Germany) held about ten days later (BACHOFEN-ECHT, 1925). Just five months later, at a meeting of the Class of Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna on February 12, 1925, he presented a somewhat more detailed description of two distinct types of tracks. He attributed the large tridactyl tracks to the genus Iguanodon, and the circular prints with visible claw marks to turtles (BACHOFEN-ECHT, 1926). He named the site where he

jene s tragovima korištenja kamena), upućuje na rt Ploče. Tu je lokaciju prvi predložio FERRARI (1992). Bachofen-Echt je ujedno naveo da “nigdje prije nije istovremeno uočena tolika količina tragova jedinki tako različitih veličina na istome mjestu” te već tada zaključio da je “iguanodon bio društvena životinja te da su odrasli i mladi tvorili krdo.”

Iako je to bilo prvo znanstveno priopćenje i valorizacija tragova, zanimljivo je napomenuti da u to doba ove tvorevine u stijena- ma nisu bile nepoznate stanovnicima Brijuna. Već prije 1907. zamijetio ih je Robert, malodobni sin brijunskog šumara i upravitelja Alojza Čufara, no bez odgovarajućeg znanja, otočani su ih nazivali *otiscima đavola* (ZUFFAR, 2017).

Zanimljiva novost spomenuta je i u vodiču otočnog liječnika Lenza (LENZ, 1926). Za “neobična udubljenja ravnomjernog oblika u pločama stijena” na lokalitetu Punta Lastra (tal. naziv za rt Ploče) navodi da je “prije samo nekoliko godina geolog pretpostavio da su to tragovi troprstog stopala dinosaura iz trijaskе formacije” te da bi u slučaju točnosti te pretpostavke, otoci bili stari oko 30 milijuna godina. Opis ove zanimljivosti sa rta Ploče nedvojbeno je potvrda lokacije Bachofen-Echtova toponima *Capo Rocca*. Lenz u vodiču ujedno spominje da su slični otisci pronađeni i na rtu Barban, ondašnjem nazivu za rt Vrbanj odnosno Pogledalo. Bachofen-Echt ovaj položaj nije spomenuo, pa se čini da su nove spoznaje urodile potragom za novim otiscima ili su od ranije poznati otisci đavola napokon dobili svoje pravo ime.

O interesu koji su u znanstvenoj zajednici izazvali brijunski otisci najbolje svjedoče sjećanja Lenzove supruge Marije Lenz Guttenberg koja je ubrzo za londonski Prirodoslovni muzej napravila gipsani odljev “najjasnijeg traga” s rta koji naziva Cap Rancon (danas rt Kosir) (LENZ GUTTENBERG, 2007). Zacijelo je riječ o pogrešnom nazivu s obzirom da je memoare pisala 1946., osam godina nakon prisilnog odlaska s otoka od strane fašističkih vlasti.

Uz to, sedam ravnomjerno razmaknutih otisaka dugačkih otprilike 30 cm, kako ih opisuje, na spomenutoj lokaciji nije poznato. Nažalost, na upit o bilo kakvim informacijama vezanim uz ovaj odljev, iz londonskog Prirodoslovnog muzeja nismo dobili nikakav odgovor.⁴

found the footprints Capo Rocca. Although this toponym does not appear on contemporary maps, the description of the site— “a horizontal layer just above sea level, often flooded by the tide,” with “a large number of visible, though very eroded, footprints...,” its proximity to Pula, and the height of the ten-meter rock with traces of stone use—points to Cape Ploče. This location was first suggested by FERRARI (1992). Bachofen-Echt also noted that “nowhere before had such a large number of tracks from individuals of such different sizes been observed at the same location,” and he concluded that “the Iguanodon was a social animal and that adults and juveniles formed a herd.”

Although this was the first scientific announcement and formal assessment of the tracks, it is interesting to note that these formations in the rocks were not unknown to the inhabitants of Brijuni at the time. Already before 1907, Robert, the underage son of Brijuni forester and manager Alojz Čufar, had noticed them, but without proper knowledge, the islanders called them “devil’s footprints” (ZUFFAR, 2017).

An interesting mention also appears in the guide by the island’s physician Lenz (LENZ, 1926). For the “unusual evenly shaped depressions in the rock slabs” at the site Punta Lastra (Italian name for Cape Ploče), he noted that “just a few years ago, a geologist assumed that these were the tracks of a three-toed dinosaur foot from the Triassic formation” and that, if this assumption were correct, the islands would be around 30 million years old. This description of the Cape Ploče site is an unequivocal confirmation of Bachofen-Echt’s toponym Capo Rocca. Lenz also mentions that similar prints were found at Cape Barban, then the name for Cape Vrbanj or Pogledalo. Bachofen-Echt did not mention this location, so it seems that new discoveries were motivated by the search for additional tracks or that previously known “devil’s footprints” finally received their proper identification.

The interest that the Brijuni tracks generated within the scientific community is best evidenced by the recollections of Lenz’s wife, Marija Lenz Guttenberg, who soon made a plaster cast of “the clearest track” from a cape she calls Cap Rancon (today Cape Kosir) for the Natural History Museum in London (LENZ GUTTENBERG, 2007). This is likely a misnomer, as she wrote her memoirs in 1946, eight years after being forcibly removed from the island by fascist authorities.

1 **Ante Polšak** (1930. – 1990.), redoviti profesor na Geološkom odsjeku Prirodoslovno matematičkog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu; geolog - paleontolog, poznati rudistolog; autor O GK lista Pula
2 **Martin Lockley** (1950. – 2023.), redoviti profesor na University of Colorado Denver, USA; paleontolog, glasoviti paleovertebratolog i paleoihnolog; autor svjetski poznatih knjiga iz paleoihnologije.
3 **Stjepan Gračan** (1941. – 2022.), redoviti profesor na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti Sveučilišta u Zagrebu; poznati hrvatski akademski kipar; autor skice – dino-skulpture na Velom Brijunu.

1 **Ante Polšak** (1930. – 1990.), full professor at the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb; geologist and paleontologist, renowned rudistologist; author of the Basic Geological Map (Sheet Pula).
2 **Martin Lockley** (1950. – 2023.), full professor at the University of Colorado Denver, USA; paleontologist, distinguished vertebrate paleontologist and paleoichnologist; author of internationally acclaimed books on paleoichnology.
3 **Stjepan Gračan** (1941. – 2022.), full professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of Zagreb; prominent Croatian academic sculptor; author of the sketch for the dinosaur sculpture on Veli Brijun.

4 Bio je to prvi model brijunskog otiska izvan otoka. U novije vrijeme izrađeno je više replika najjasnijeg, “najfotogeničnijeg” traga s rta Pogledalo. Jedna je izrađena za potrebe izložbe *Dinosauri Jadranske regije* u Trstu 2001., druga za Multimedijalni centar *Ulika* u obližnjim Balama, a od 2015. jedan primjerak izložen je i u kući za brodice, interpretacijsko-edukacijskom centru NP Brijuni smještenom u brijunskoj luci te je tako dostupan svim posjetiteljima otoka.

Zanimljiv podatak 1990. donose Sabino Leghissa i Giuseppe Leonardi, koji navode da se u “milanskom Prirodoslovnom muzeju nalazi nekoliko vapnenačkih ploča s otiscima stopala teropoda malih dimenzija, koji potječu s nažalost neodređene lokacije u Istri” i zaključuju da “Lokalitet vjerojatno sadrži i druge otiske stopala, budući da ponuđači uzoraka nisu htjeli muzeju otkriti njihovu lokaciju” (LEGHISSA & LEONARDI, 1990). Podatak je utoliko zanimljiviji što je naveden odmah nakon spomena Bachofen-Echtovog brijunskog otkrića. Bilo da je riječ o brijunskom ili kojem drugom nalazištu, ovakva upozorenja svakako ukazuju na potrebu podizanja svijesti i skretanja pozornosti na ugrožavanje naše prirodne baštine kao i potrebu njezine bolje zaštite. LEGHISSA & LEONARDI (1990) te WEISHAMPEL (1990) prema Bachofen-Echtovim crtežima otisaka prvi su naveli mogućnost da oni pripadaju teropodnim dinosaurima što također ističu DALLA VECCHIA i suradnici (1993) dajući i preliminarni opis određenih otisaka, ali uz napomenu da bi se za potvrdu trebala provesti detaljna studija nalazišta na Pločama.

Vapnenačke ploče s otiscima stopala dinosaura bile su izložene u *Muzeju otoka Brioni* već 1955. godine bez navođenja s kojeg od tada poznata dva lokaliteta potječu. Budući da su tragovi vađenja vidljivi samo na rtu Ploče valja pretpostaviti da su izvađene upravo na tom položaju. Vapnenačke ploče preseljene su 1965. u novootvoreni prirodoslovni muzej smješten u kući za brodice (tzv. čamčarnica). Uslijed nepovoljnih uvjeta smještaja, muzej je prestao funkcionirati i prije preseljenja zoološkog dijela postava u diorame nove prirodoslovne izložbe otvorene 1984. Godine 2004. vapnenačke ploče su izvađene iz velike zajedničke gipsane podloge i smještene u muzejsku čuvaonicu. S obzirom da se uslijed njihova vađenja iz slojeva pločastih krednih vapnenaca na lokalitetu s neprikladnim alatom svaka sastojala iz više dijelova, godine 2007. Hrvoje Malinar proveo je neophodne konzervatorsko-restauratorske radove (MALINAR, 2007). Pet vapnenačkih ploča danas su sastavni dio omanje geološko-paleontološke muzejske zbirke NP Brijuni koja je od 2013. registrirana kao kulturno dobro Republike Hrvatske. Povodom obilježavanja ovogodišnje obljetnice, u prostorima muzeja pripremljena je manja prigodna izložba *Tragovi u stijeni* na kojoj posjetitelji mogu vidjeti i jednu od ploča s otiskom stopala dinosaura.

Od 1947. do 1980. Brijuni su bili rezidencijalno područje jugoslavenskog predsjednika Josipa Broza Tita i zbog toga su pristup otoku kao i bilo kakva terenska istraživanja bili ograničeni. Pa ipak, u tom su razdoblju istraživanja provodili naši poznati

Moreover, seven evenly spaced footprints approximately 30 cm long, as described, are not known from the aforementioned location. Unfortunately, inquiries regarding any information about this cast received no response from the Natural History Museum in London⁴.

An interesting note was reported in 1990 by Sabino Leghissa and Giuseppe Leonardi, who state that several limestone slabs with small theropod footprints from an unfortunately unspecified location in Istria are housed in the Natural History Museum in Milan, and they conclude that “the site likely contains other footprints, as the sample providers did not want to reveal their location to the museum” (LEGHISSA & LEONARDI, 1990). This information is particularly noteworthy as it immediately follows the mention of Bachofen-Echt’s Brijuni discovery. Whether these refer to Brijuni or another site, such warnings underscore the need to raise awareness about threats to our natural heritage and the importance of its protection. LEGHISSA & LEONARDI (1990) and WEISHAMPEL (1990), based on Bachofen-Echt’s drawings, were the first to suggest that the tracks might belong to theropod dinosaurs, which is also highlighted by DALLA VECCHIA and colleagues (1993), who provided a preliminary description of certain prints, noting that a detailed study of the Ploče site would be necessary for confirmation.

The limestone slabs with dinosaur footprints were exhibited in the Brijuni Island Museum as early as 1955, without indicating from which of the two then-known sites they originated. Since traces of extraction are only visible at Cape Ploče, it is assumed they were taken from this location. The slabs were moved in 1965 to the newly opened natural history museum housed in the boathouse (so-called “čamčarnica”). Due to unfavorable storage conditions, the museum ceased functioning before the zoological part of the exhibit was moved to dioramas in the new natural history exhibition opened in 1984. In 2004, the limestone slabs were removed from a large plaster base and placed in the museum repository. As each slab consisted of multiple parts due to extraction from the layered Cretaceous limestone using inadequate tools, Hrvoje Malinar conducted necessary conservation and restoration work in 2007 (MALINAR, 2007). Five limestone slabs are now part of the smaller geological-paleontological museum collection of Brijuni National Park, registered as a cultural asset of the Republic of Croatia since 2013. For the anniversary this year, the museum prepared a small commemorative exhibition *Traces in the Rock*, where visitors can also see one of the dinosaur footprint slabs.

geolozi-paleontolozi dr. sc. MIRKO MALEZ (1957), prof. dr. sc. ANTE POLŠAK (1965) koji na rtu Pogledalo utvrđuje dva tipa otisaka, kao i slovenski profesori ANTON RAMOVŠ (1967), MATJAŽ GOGALA & RAJKO PAVLOVEC (1978).

Ovom prigodom posebno treba naglasiti značajnu ulogu hrvatskih geologa i paleontologa, ponajviše iz Hrvatskog geološkog instituta, koji su terenski i laboratorijski marljivo radili na produkciji geoloških karata u suradnji sa sveučilišnim nastavnicima Geološkog odsjeka s Prirodoslovno-matematičkog i Rudarsko-geološko-naftnog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, gdje su svi oni i stekli edukaciju. Primjer tomu je i zasluga i zalaganje pok. prof. dr. sc. Ante Polšaka, izv. člana HAZU-a koji je posebno pridonio poznavanju stratigrafije i paleontologije karbonatnih krednih sedimenata, a u ovoj „priči“ nam je posebno važan kao glavni autor Osnovne geološke karte (OGK) (POLŠAK i sur., 1967) i Tumača lista Pula u sklopu kojeg su i Brijuni (POLŠAK, 1970). Treba spomenuti i pregledni rad o poznavanju rasprostranjenosti mezozojskih i kenozojskih Amphibia i Reptilia u Jugoslaviji u kojem su Bachofen-Echtovi nalazi na Brijunima svrstani u najstarije dokaze postojanja fosilnih gmazova u tadašnjoj državi (PAUNOVIĆ, 1983).

Proглаšenjem Brijuna Nacionalnim parkom i otvaranjem za posjetitelje 1984. pristup otoku je olakšan. Slijede nova istraživanja i značajni radovi sa sedimentološkog i biostratigrafskog aspekta, pa tako dr. sc. Ivo Velić i prof. dr. sc. Josip Tišljar registriraju otiske stopala gmazova, ali ih ne opisuju niti analiziraju (VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR, 1987; VELIĆ i sur., 1995). Svakako je potrebno spomenuti i paleontološku ekspertizu djelatnika Zavoda za geologiju i paleontologiju kvartara HAZU-a (naručenu od JU NP Brijuni) Anđelka Novosela i Branka Jalžića koji su 1991. na rtu Barban vrlo detaljno opisali tri vrste otisaka stopala gmazova, izmjerili ih te odredili njihovu orijentaciju što su prikazali i na priloženoj karti. Evidentirali su ukupno 33 otiska stopala gmazova i opisali ih statistički kao odlično vidljive (6), vidljive (10) i loše vidljive (17), a na topografskoj karti strelicama su naznačili i smjer njihova kretanja. Pri radu su se služili metodom kvadranta od po 1 m² na površini od 128 m², od čega na ukupnu površinu plohe s otiscima otpada 75%. Također su priložili fotodokumentaciju tragova koje su numerirali. Pored rta Barban istražili su i lokalitete na rtovima Ploče i Pinida na kojima su utvrdili prisutnost koštane breče. Isto tako ukazali su na potrebu angažmana specijalista, kako za tragove gmazova, tako i za analizu koštanih breča, a posebno su naglasili potrebu izrade elaborata zaštite nalazišta (NOVOSEL & JALŽIĆ, 1991).

Devedesetih godina prošlog stoljeća kao rezultat globalnog trenda *dino-trackinga*, generalno započinju prva studioznija i intenzivnija paleontološka, odnosno paleoihnološka istraživanja Brijuna i Istre kao dijela Jadranske karbonatne platforme (eng. AdCP = Adriatic Carbonate Platform).

U tim istraživanjima posebno se ističu Talijani, prije svega Fabio Marco Dalla Vecchia, direktor Gradskog paleontološkog muzeja u Monfalconeu i glavni urednik časopisa *Natura Nascosta*, koji

From 1947 to 1980, Brijuni served as the residential area for Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, and access to the island, as well as any field research, was restricted. Nevertheless, during this period, research was conducted by well-known Croatian geologists and paleontologists such as Dr. Mirko Malez (1957), Prof. Ante Polšak (1965), who identified two types of footprints at Cape Pogledalo, as well as Slovenian professors Anton Ramovš (1967) and Matjaž Gogala & Rajko Pavlovec (1978).

It is particularly important to emphasize the significant role of Croatian geologists and paleontologists, especially from the Croatian Geological Survey, who diligently conducted field and laboratory work on geological mapping in cooperation with university faculty from the Department of Geology at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics and the Faculty of Mining, Geology, and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Zagreb, where they were educated. An example of this is the contribution of the late Prof. Ante Polšak, a corresponding member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, who significantly advanced the knowledge of stratigraphy and paleontology of carbonate Cretaceous sediments.

In this narrative, he is particularly important as the main author of the *Basic Geological Map* (POLŠAK et al., 1967) and the explanatory sheet for Pula, which includes Brijuni (POLŠAK, 1970). It is also worth mentioning a review of the distribution of Mesozoic and Cenozoic Amphibia and Reptilia in Yugoslavia, in which Bachofen-Echt’s Brijuni finds are considered the earliest evidence of fossil reptiles in the former country (PAUNOVIĆ, 1983).

With the proclamation of Brijuni as a National Park and its opening to visitors in 1984, access to the island was facilitated. This was followed by new research and significant studies from sedimentological and biostratigraphic perspectives. Dr. Ivo Velić and Prof. Josip Tišljar recorded reptile footprints, although they did not describe or analyze them (VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR, 1987; VELIĆ et al., 1995).

It is certainly worth mentioning the paleontological expertise of the staff from the Quaternary Geology and Paleontology Department of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (commissioned by the Brijuni National Park), Anđelko Novosel and Branko Jalžić, who in 1991 at Cape Barban provided a very detailed description of three types of reptile footprints. They measured the tracks, determined their orientation, and illustrated this on an attached map. A total of 33 footprints were recorded and statistically classified as: clearly visible (6), visible (10), and poorly visible (17). The direction of movement was indicated with arrows on the topographic map. They applied a quadrant method using 1 m² squares over a surface of 128 m², covering 75% of the total area with footprints. They also provided numbered photographic documentation of the tracks. In addition to Cape Barban, they investigated sites at Capes Ploče and Pinida, where the presence of bone breccia was confirmed. They emphasized the need to engage specialists for the study

4 This was the first model of a Brijuni footprint made outside the island. More recently, several replicas of the clearest, most “photogenic” track from Rt Pogledalo have been produced. One was made for the exhibition *Dinosaurs of the Adriatic Region* in Trieste in 2001, another for the Ulika Multimedia Center in nearby Bale, and since 2015, one replica has been on display in the boathouse, the interpretive-educational center of NP Brijuni located in the Brijuni harbor, making it accessible to all island visitors.

je sa suradnicima mnogo istraživao i ostale istarske lokalite-
te. DALLA VECCHIA., F. M. (1993, 1994a, 1994b, 1996a, 1996b,
1997a, 1997b, 1998a, 1998b, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003), DALLA
VECCHIA, F.M. i sur. (1993, 1995, 2000a, 2000b, 2001, 2002).
Godine 1995. u sklopu 1. hrvatskog geološkog kongresa održa-
nog u Opatiji Dalla Vecchia i Tarlao objavljuju pregledni rad u
kojem opisuju fosilne dokaze prisutnosti dinosaura u krednim
naslagama Istre navodeći jedno nalazište fosilnih kostiju i dva-
naest nalazišta s tragovima, od stratigrafski najstarijih do naj-
mladih, među kojima su i brijunska nalazišta. Za nalazište na
rtu Ploče izražavaju sumnju da se radi o otiscima iguanodona
(DALLA VECCHIA & TARLAO, 1995).

U daljnjim radovima (DALLA VECCHIA, F.M. 1996, 1997a, 1997b,
1998; 2001, DALLA VECCHIA, F.M. i sur., 2000a) nastavlja se na-
voditi kako se ipak radi o teropodnim otiscima a ne o iguano-
donu što je potvrđeno 2002. godine detaljnim opisom triju na-
lazišta na Brijunima s priloženim kartama: rt Pogledalo, rt Ploče
i rt Plješivac (DALLA VECCHIA, F.M. i sur., 2002). U istom radu iz
2002. godine Dalla Vecchia navodi pretpostavlja kako su fosilni
tragovi s nalazišta Ploče vjerojatno odneseni u muzejske zbirke
u Beč i Beograd (DALLA VECCHIA, F.M. i sur., 2002). Međutim, s
obzirom da da su Brijuni od 1920. pod talijanskom vlašću, malo
je vjerojatno da su u to vrijeme vapnenačke ploče s otiscima
stopala vadene za muzej u Beču.

Od izuzetne važnosti svakako je i otkriće podvodnog ronioca
Darija Boscarollija, koji je u plitkom podmorju uvale Kolone kod
Bala otkrio prve kosti dinosaura u nas (BOSCAROLLI, D. i sur.
1993). Ubrzo nakon ovog značajnog otkrića uslijedio je novi
rad s detaljnim anatomske opisima otkrivenih kostiju (DALLA
VECCHIA, 1998a; DALLA VECCHIA & BOSCAROLLI, 1999). Ovakvi
rezultati rezultirali su otvaranjem edukativnog Multimedijalnog
centra *Ulika* u Balama 2013. godine.

Od hrvatskih geologa-paleontologa, koji su iz želje i zanimanja
na području *dino-trackinga* kasnih devedesetih i dvijetisućitih
godina započeli svoja istraživanja, bili su i Zlatan Bajraktarević
i Aleksandar Mezga s Geološko-paleontološkog zavoda PMF-a
Sveučilišta u Zagrebu.

Uz njih dvojicu povremeno su sudjelovali znanstvenici i stru-
cnjaci drugih struka iz Hrvatske i inozemstva kao i djelatnici NP
Brijuni. S tim u vezi, poziv JU NP Brijuni na sudjelovanje u 1.
*Znanstveno-stručnom skupu “Tragovi dinosaura – između zna-
nosti i očuvanja”* kojim se ove godine simbolično obilježava
stotinu godina od objave Bachofen-Echtova otkrića, potaknuo
nas je da se prisjetimo naših istraživanja.

Početku te suradnje prethodio je sastanak i preliminarni razgo-
vor s tadašnjim ravnateljem NP Brijuni prof. Šimom Meštrovi-
ćem 1993. s kojim smo dogovorili da poštujući zakonsku regu-
lativu možemo kontinuirano dolaziti i provoditi istraživanja.

of reptile tracks and bone breccia, and highlighted the impor-
tance of producing a protective management plan for the sites
(NOVOSEL & JALŽIĆ, 1991).

In the 1990s, as part of the global dino-tracking trend, more
systematic and intensive paleontological, or rather paleoich-
nological, research began in Brijuni and Istria, as part of the
Adriatic Carbonate Platform (AdCP).

Italian researchers, particularly Fabio Marco Dalla Vecchia, Di-
rector of the Municipal Paleontological Museum in Monfalcone
and editor-in-chief of the journal *Natura Nascosta*, stand out in
these investigations. Along with his colleagues, he conducted
extensive research at other Istrian sites (DALLA VECCHIA, F.M.,
1993–2003; DALLA VECCHIA, F.M. et al., 1993–2002).

In 1995, at the 1st Croatian Geological Congress held in Opati-
ja, Dalla Vecchia and Tarlao published a review paper describ-
ing fossil evidence of dinosaurs in the Cretaceous deposits of
Istria, listing one site with fossil bones and twelve sites with
footprints, stratigraphically from the oldest to the youngest, in-
cluding the Brijuni sites. Regarding the site at Cape Ploče, they
expressed doubt that the tracks belonged to Iguanodon (DALLA
VECCHIA & TARLAO, 1995).

In subsequent studies (DALLA VECCHIA, F.M., 1996–2001; DAL-
LA VECCHIA, F.M. et al., 2000a), it was clarified that the tracks
were theropod rather than Iguanodon, confirmed in 2002 by a
detailed description of three Brijuni sites with accompanying
maps: Cape Pogledalo, Cape Ploče, and Cape Plješivac (DAL-
LA VECCHIA, F.M. et al., 2002). In the same 2002 paper, Dal-
la Vecchia hypothesized that the fossil tracks from Ploče may
have been taken to museum collections in Vienna and Belgrade
(DALLA VECCHIA, F.M. et al., 2002). However, since Brijuni were
under Italian rule from 1920, it is unlikely that limestone slabs
with footprints were removed for a Vienna museum at that time.

Of exceptional importance is also the discovery by diver Dario
Boscarolli, who in the shallow waters of Kolone Bay near Bale
found the first dinosaur bones in Croatia (BOSCAROLLI, D. et
al., 1993). Shortly after this significant discovery, a detailed
anatomical study of the bones was published (DALLA VECCHIA,
1998a; DALLA VECCHIA & BOSCAROLLI, 1999). These results led
to the opening of the educational Multimedia Center Ulika in
Bale in 2013.

Among Croatian geologists and paleontologists, those who be-
gan their research in dino-tracking in the late 1990s and ear-
ly 2000s included Zlatan Bajraktarević and Aleksandar Mezga
from the Geological-Paleontological Institute at the Faculty of
Science, University of Zagreb. Other scientists and specialists
from Croatia and abroad, as well as staff from Brijuni National
Park, participated intermittently.

Prvi radni kontakt sa stručnim osobljem JU NP Brijuni imali
smo s Antonom Vitasovićem, arheologom i dugogodišnjim dje-
latnikom Brijuna koji nas je dočekaao 19. lipnja 1999. prilikom
snimanja prve emisije o dinosaurima. Uz tročlanu ekipu HRT-a
(organizator i voditelj bio je Miljenko Šimpraga) te nas dvojicu
s Geološko-paleontološkog zavoda, sudjelovali su još naš pok.
profesor Ivan Gušić te Krešimir Babić, profesor anatomije s Ve-
terinarskog fakulteta. (Njega će kasnije zamijeniti njegov mlađi
kolega profesor Zvonimir Kozarić). Emisija o nalazištu otisaka
stopala dinosaura na rtu Barban pod nazivom *Životinjski pla-
net: “Tragovima dinosaura u Istri”* bila je emitirana 8. listopada
1999. na Drugom programu HRT-a. Osim informiranja javnosti o
ovom važnom paleontološkom lokalitetu, namjera je bila i po-
treba uvođenja pojma znanstvenog turizma, kao i ukazivanje
na važnost uloge prirodnoslovlja i ostalih struka u svim oblicima
edukacije.

S brijunske strane u svim našim istraživanjima od samog počet-
ka sudjelovala je i Mira Pavletić, dipl. arh., koja je kao voditelji-
ca Odsjeka za zaštitu kulturnih dobara bila glavna koordinato-
rica, suradnica i pravi domaćin od našeg dolaska pa gotovo do
umirovljenja 2023.

Ovom prigodom treba se zahvaliti ravnateljima Eduardu Koliću,
dr. vet. i Sandru Dujmoviću, dipl. inž. biol. na podršci, razumije-
vanju i kooperativnosti.

Za skromnu, ali značajnu potporu u radu, bila nam je uz naš
entuzijizam potrebna i financijska pomoć koju smo u okviru
zajedničkog projekta NP Brijuni i PMF-a realizirali zahvalju-
jući Fondu za zaštitu okoliša i energetske učinkovitost. Osim
toga treba naglasiti i indirektnu pomoć koju smo dobili putem
znanstvenog projekta *Palaeostudies and reconstructions of
dinosaur populations and their environments in Istrian region
(Croatia) during the Upper Jurassic and Cretaceous (170-90 Ma)*
financiranog od strane Swiss National Science Foundation. Ta-
kav tip projekta realiziran je u okviru znanstvene suradnje izme-
đu Istočne Europe i Švicarske za razdoblje od 2000. do 2004.
(SCOPES), čiji su nosioci bili profesor Christian Meyer iz Basela
te Zlatan Bajraktarević.

S tim u vezi, treba napomenuti da je tadašnji asistent, a da-
našnji profesor Aleksandar Mezga, pokazivao interes za takva
istraživanja. Stoga sam ga, kao mentor njegovog diplomskog,
magistarskog i doktorskog rada, a u sklopu planiranja i kadro-
viranja budućih mladih znanstvenika, uputio na jednogodiš-
nju studijsku stipendiju i edukaciju upravo kod profesora Ch.
Meyera, jednog od vodećih znanstvenika iz područja fosilne
vertebratologije i paleoichnologije, posebice dinosaura, koauto-
ra knjige *Dinosaur Tracks and Other Fossil Footprints of Europe*
(LOCKLEY & MEYER, 2000).

Iz tih razloga sva istraživanja krenula su u smjeru detektiranja
ostalih lokaliteta fosilnih otisaka stopala dinosaura i eventual-
nih tragova drugih fosilnih životinja, prvenstveno kornjača. Po-
sebni znanstveni poticaj u atmosferi *dino-trackinga* i njegova
razumijevanja, uz svu tadašnju literaturu i dragocjenu pomoć

In this context, the invitation from Brijuni National Park to par-
ticipate in the 1st Scientific-Professional Conference “Dinosaur
Tracks – Between Science and Conservation,” symbolically
marking the 100th anniversary of Bachofen-Echt’s discovery,
prompted us to recall our own research. This collaboration
began with a meeting and preliminary discussion with the
then-director of Brijuni NP, Prof. Šime Meštrović, in 1993, where
we agreed that, respecting legal regulations, we could conduct
continuous research on the island.

Our first working contact with the professional staff of Brijuni
NP was with Anton Vitasović, archaeologist and long-time em-
ployee of Brijuni, who welcomed us on June 19, 1999, during
the filming of the first TV program on dinosaurs. Alongside the
three-member HRT crew (organized and led by Miljenko Šimpra-
ga) and the two of us from the Geological-Paleontological Insti-
tute, the team included our late Prof. Ivan Gušić and Krešimir
Babić, professor of anatomy at the Veterinary Faculty (later re-
placed by Prof. Zvonimir Kozarić).

The program about the dinosaur footprint site at Cape Barban,
titled *Animal Planet: Following Dinosaur Tracks in Istria*, aired
on October 8, 1999, on the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT) Sec-
ond Program.

Besides informing the public about this important paleontolog-
ical site, the intention was to introduce the concept of scientific
tourism and highlight the importance of natural sciences and
related fields in education. From the Brijuni side, Mira Pavletić, M.Arch., participated from
the beginning as head of the Department for Cultural Heritage
Protection, serving as coordinator, collaborator, and gracious
host from our first visit until her retirement in 2023.

We would also like to thank the directors Eduard Kolić, DVM,
and Sandro Dujmović, B.Sc. Biol., for their support, under-
standing, and cooperation.

For modest but significant support, alongside our own enthusi-
asm, financial assistance was crucial. This was realized through
a joint project between Brijuni NP and the University of Zagreb,
funded by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency
Fund. Indirect support was also provided by the scientific pro-
ject *Palaeostudies and reconstructions of dinosaur populations
and their environments in the Istrian region (Croatia) during
the Upper Jurassic and Cretaceous (170–90 Ma)*, funded by the
Swiss National Science Foundation, which facilitated collabora-
tion between Eastern Europe and Switzerland from 2000–2004,
led by Prof. Christian Meyer (Basel) and Zlatan Bajraktarević.

At that time, then-assistant and current Prof. Aleksandar Mezga
showed interest in such research. As his mentor for bachelor’s,
master’s, and doctoral work, I guided him to a one-year study
scholarship and training under Prof. C. Meyer, a leading expert
in fossil vertebrate paleontology and paleoichnology, particu-
larly dinosaurs, and co-author of *Dinosaur Tracks and Other*

knjige prof. Martina LOCKLEYa (1991), trebalo je usredotočiti na paleoihno­loška i ostala paleontološka istraživanja na prostoru Jadransko-dinaridske karbonatne platforme.

Daljnjim istraživanjima, te kontinuiranim terenskim radom i uspoređivanjima s drugim publiciranim radovima, počeli smo uočavati sve više novih nalazišta fosilnih otisaka stopala dino­saura kao i staza njihovih kretanja, kako onih teropodnih, tako i sauropodnih. To se prije svega odnosi na četiri lokaliteta na Velom Brijunu, te na obližnjim otocima, Galiji, Vangi i Vrsaru (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004a; MEZGA i sur., 2003; MEZGA i sur., 2015). U neposrednoj blizini Brijunskog arhipelaga nalaze se i drugi značajni lokaliteti, poput otočića Fenoliga, gdje je u vapnencima mlađeg cenomana pronađeno 139 tragova, od kojih 102 sauropodna i 37 teropodnih (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 1999). Također u zapadnom dijelu Istre je nalazište Gustinja s vrlo lijepo vidljivim i edukativnim dinoturbacijama (*gacalištim*) dinosaura. Otkrivanjem i predstavljanjem takvih nalazišta, otvara se interes za posjete paleontološkim lokalitetima u svrhu obavljanja terenskih vježbi, kako naših studenata, tako i studenata iz inozemstva (npr. Ch. Meyer sa svojim studentima iz Švicarske u listopadu 2003.).

Kada smo kod nabiranja zanimljivih i vrijednih nalazišta, treba svakako spomenuti i kamenolom Kirmenjak iz gornjojurskih vapnenaca s 23 staze kretanja sauropodnih dinosaura, koji ubrajamo, ne samo u najveće i stratigrafski najstarije poznato nalazište u Hrvatskoj, već i u ovom dijelu Europe (MEZGA i sur., 2007). Stoga je u rujnu 2015. povodom 140. godišnjice osnutka GPZ-a kameni blok s otiscima stopala iz tog kamenoloma postavljen ispred zgrade PMF-a u Zagrebu. Blok dimenzija 200 x 140 x 70 cm, težine 5,5 tona, dopremljen je u suradnji s bivšim studentom PMF-a Sergejem Zvocom, dipl. inž. geol., djelatnikom tvrtke Kamen d. d. Pazin.

Ovom prigodom treba svakako spomenuti i naše pokušaje skretanja pozornosti na potrebu provođenja širih i detaljnijih sistematskih istraživanja fosilnih kostiju dinosaura u relativno plitkom podmorju uvale Kolone, a i šire. S tim u vezi preliminarno smo angažirali našeg poznatog ronioca iz Pule Branislava Danevskog s kojim smo dogovarali potencijalnu realizaciju detaljnog podvodnog snimanja nalazišta kostiju koje se teško vade iz vapnenca nekadašnjeg jezerskog okoliša. Na taj način otvorila bi se i mogućnost organizacije edukativne paleontologije. Za anatomske i histološke analize kostiju planirana je suradnja s prof. Z. Kozarićem, koji nam je puno pomogao da u komparaciji i shvaćanju recentne anatomske građe i histologije kosti s aktualističkog aspekta bolje razumijemo analize i građu kostiju u fosilnih vertebrata i to posebno fosilnih gmazova, odnosno dinosaura (KOZARIĆ i sur., 1996; PIČULJAN i sur., 2011). Za tu tematiku i rješavanje izazova od posebnog je značaja i velike koristi knjiga CHINSAMY-TURAN, 2005.

Naša daljnja istraživanja nastavljaju se južnije zbog logične pretpostavke da uslijed specifičnih paleogeografskih i geološko-paleontoloških uvjeta u području Jadransko-dinaridske

Fossil Footprints of Europe (LOCKLEY & MEYER, 2000).

All research efforts were thus directed toward identifying other sites with fossil dinosaur footprints and potential traces of other fossil animals, primarily turtles. The scientific impetus provided by the dino-tracking movement, combined with contemporary literature and the invaluable book by Prof. Martin Lockley (1991), focused research on paleoichnology and related paleontology within the Adriatic-Dinaridic Carbonate Platform.

Through continued fieldwork and comparisons with published studies, we identified an increasing number of new sites with fossil dinosaur tracks and movement paths, including theropods and sauropods. This primarily concerns four sites on Veliki Brijun and nearby islands, Galija, Vanga, and Vrsar (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004a; MEZGA et al., 2003; MEZGA et al., 2015). Other significant sites near the Brijuni archipelago include the islet Fenoliga, where 139 tracks were found in younger Cenomanian limestones, of which 102 were sauropod and 37 theropod (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 1999). In western Istria, the Gustinja site displays very well-preserved and educational dinosaur trace fossils (dinoturbations).

Discovering and presenting such sites fosters interest in visiting paleontological sites for fieldwork, both for local students and international students (e.g., Ch. Meyer and his students from Switzerland in October 2003).

Among other remarkable sites, the Kirmenjak quarry, from Upper Jurassic limestones, features 23 sauropod trackways and is considered not only the largest and stratigraphically oldest known site in Croatia but also in this part of Europe (MEZGA et al., 2007).

To commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Geological-Paleontological Institute in September 2015, a limestone block with footprints from this quarry was placed in front of the Faculty of Science building in Zagreb. The block, measuring 200 × 140 × 70 cm and weighing 5.5 tons, was delivered with the collaboration of former student Sergej Zvoca, B.Sc. Geol., an employee of Kamen d.d., Pazin.

On this occasion, it is certainly worth mentioning our attempts to draw attention to the need for broader and more detailed systematic research of fossil dinosaur bones in the relatively shallow waters of Kolone Bay and beyond. In this regard, we preliminarily engaged our well-known diver from Pula, Branislav Danevski, with whom we discussed the potential execution of detailed underwater documentation of the bone site, which is difficult to extract from the limestone of a former lacustrine environment. This would also open possibilities for organizing educational paleontology activities. For anatomical and histological analyses of the bones, collaboration was planned with Prof. Z. Kozarić, who greatly helped us in comparing and understanding the anatomy and histology of recent bones from an actualistic perspective, allowing us to better comprehend anal-

karbonatne platforme možemo očekivati još relativno mnogo značajnih nalaza. Tome u prilog ide nalaz 10 izoliranih kružno elipsastih tragova četveronožnih dinosaura koje smo istražili zajedno s prof. Ch. Meyerom u uvali Žukova, kod Starog Grada na otoku Hvaru. Radi se o vrlo značajnom nalazu za koji se na temelju veličine otisaka stopala pretpostavlja da pripada najvećim jedinkama u Hrvatskoj (MEZGA i sur. 2006). O tom nalazu prvi su pisali JELASKA i sur. (2005).

S vremenom je postalo sve evidentnije da je na temelju sve brojnijih nalaza i radova drugih autora iz područja paleoih­nologije potrebno takve prirodne paleontološke fenomene na području Republike Hrvatske zakonski zaštititi što je Rješenjem o proglašenju fosila dinosaura i njihovih nalazišta zaštićenim dijelovima prirode i učinjeno za 24 lokaliteta (NN 40/2021. od 15. 4. 2021.). Inicijativu zaštite fosila dinosaura kao zaštićene prirodne vrijednosti pokrenula je Uprava za zaštitu prirode Ministarstva kulture 2005. godine zajedno s Državnim zavodom za zaštitu prirode. Prvi prijedlog zaštite izradio je 2007. godine upravo Državni zavod za zaštitu prirode pri čemu su podatke o nalazištima na raspolaganje stavili prof.dr.sc. Zlatan Bajraktarević i dr.sc. Aleksandar Mezga s Geološkog zavoda PMF-a.

Slijedile su izmjene da bi 2014. godine Državni zavod za zaštitu prirode izradio Stručno obrazloženje za proglašenje fosila dinosaura zaštićenim djelom prirode što se i dogodilo sedam godina kasnije. Za potrebe Upisnika zaštićenih minerala i fosila, a u cilju adekvatne zaštite i upravljanja 20. veljače 2025. godine izrađen je Elaborat za upis zaštićenih fosila dinosaura. Elaborat je izradila Irina Žeger Pleše, prof.geol.et.geog., uz suradnju djelatnika JU koji upravljaju nalazištima. U njemu se nalaze osnovni podaci za svih 24 nalazišta s procjenom trenutačnog stanja te smjernicama za daljnje upravljanje koje će služiti kao pomoć Javnim ustanovama koje upravljaju istim (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

U međuvremenu otkrivena su nova nalazišta fosilnih tragova dinosaura, ali također postoje i ona za koje se znalo i ranije, ali nisu obuhvaćena Rješenjem iz 2021. godine. Sva ona će, u najskorije vrijeme, biti proglašena zaštićenim dijelovima prirode.

Tijekom naših istraživanja na Brijunima utvrdili smo otiske stopala dinosaura na Velom Brijunu te na manjim otocima brijunskog arhipelaga Vangi, Galiji i Vrsaru.

Na četiri lokaliteta Velog Brijuna (rt Pogledalo/Vrbanj/Barban, rt Ploče, rt Kamik/Plješivac) utvrđeni su otisci stopala dinosaura, kao i lokalitet s mogućim otiscima vertebrata (rt Trstike/Debela Glava). Utvrđeno je ukupno 220 otisaka od kojih 111 čine 15 staza (13 s otiscima dinosaura). Raspon starosti otisaka je gornji barem (rt Pogledalo) do gornji alb (rt Ploče, rt Kamik/Plješivac, rt Trstike/Debela Glava). U gornjobaremskoj ihnacenozi utvrđeni su otisci krupnih teropoda nastali u intertajdalnom okolišu. U ihnacenozi prevladavaju otisci pripisani robusnim formama karnosaurskih teropoda. U gornjoalbskoj ihnacenozi zastupljeni su otisci malih-srednje velikih teropoda, srednje velikih ornitopoda, malih ornitopoda, srednje velikih sauropo-

yses and the structure of fossil vertebrate bones, particularly fossil reptiles, i.e., dinosaurs (KOZARIĆ et al., 1996; PIČULJAN et al., 2011). For this topic and addressing related challenges, the book by CHINSAMY-TURAN (2005) has proven especially valuable.

Our further research continued southward, based on the logical assumption that due to the specific paleogeographic and geological-paleontological conditions of the Adriatic-Dinaridic Carbonate Platform, we could expect a relatively large number of significant new discoveries. Supporting this assumption is the discovery of 10 isolated, circular-elliptical tracks of quadrupedal dinosaurs, which we investigated together with Prof. Ch. Meyer in Žukova Bay near Stari Grad on the island of Hvar. This is a highly significant finding, as the size of the footprints suggests they belonged to some of the largest individuals in Croatia (MEZGA et al., 2006). The discovery was first reported by JELASKA et al. (2005).

Over time, it became increasingly evident that, based on the growing number of discoveries and publications by other paleoichnology researchers, such natural paleontological phenomena in the Republic of Croatia needed legal protection. This was accomplished with the Decree on the Protection of Dinosaur Fossils and Their Sites, covering 24 localities (Official Gazette 40/2021, April 15, 2021). The initiative to protect dinosaur fossils as a protected natural heritage was launched by the Directorate for Nature Protection of the Ministry of Culture in 2005, together with the State Institute for Nature Protection. The first protection proposal was drafted in 2007 by the State Institute, with data on sites provided by Prof. Zlatan Bajraktarević and Dr. Aleksandar Mezga from the Geological Institute, University of Zagreb.

Subsequent revisions led to the 2014 expert justification for declaring dinosaur fossils protected, which was officially enacted seven years later. For the Register of Protected Minerals and Fossils, and to ensure proper protection and management, an Elaborate for the registration of protected dinosaur fossils was prepared on February 20, 2025, by Irina Žeger Pleše, Prof. Geol. et Geog., in collaboration with the staff managing the sites. It contains basic data for all 24 sites, assessments of their current state, and management guidelines to assist the managing public institutions (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

Meanwhile, new fossil dinosaur track sites have been discovered, as well as previously known sites not included in the 2021 decree. These will also be officially declared protected areas in the near future.

During our research in Brijuni, we identified dinosaur footprints on Veliki Brijun and the smaller islands of the Brijuni archipelago: Vanga, Galija, and Vrsar. On four sites on Veliki Brijun (Capes Pogledalo/Vrbanj/Barban, Ploče, Kamik/Plješivac) dinosaur footprints were found, as well as a site with possible vertebrate footprints (Cape Trstike/Debela Glava).

da te otisci nedeterminiranih vertebrata. Otisci su nastali u la-
gunskom okolišu koji je povremenim izranjavanjima bio izložen
atmosferskim uvjetima.

Pronađeni otisci stopala iguanodontidnih ornitopoda predstav-
ljaju prve takve nalaze na Istarskom poluotoku. Na rtu Kamik/
Plješivac ustanovljene su tri paralelne staze s otiscima koji naj-
vjerojatnije pripadaju malim teropodima, a koje mogu ukazivati
na njihovo zajedničko kretanje. Brzine kretanja jedinki s ovih
lokaliteta kreću se u rasponima od 5 – 9 km/h, što upućuje na
njihov normalan hod.

U slojevitim vapnencima gornjoalbske starosti (prije oko 100
mil. g.) na rtu Ploče pronađeno je 60 otisaka malih dvonožnih
mesojeda procijenjene dužine 3-4 m, koji su najvjerojatnije
sličili mesožderima iz skupine Coelurosauria, za koje se pret-
postavlja da su bili vrlo agresivni i okretni, te da su predstav-
ljali prave napadače-predatore. Šezdesetak otisaka pronađeno
je na rtu Kamik/Plješivac od kojih su krupniji otisci pripadali
biljojedima, reda veličine 6-6,5 m najviše nalik ornitopodnim
dinosaurima, odnosno iguanodontidima, a manji, dvonožnim
mesojedima reda veličine 3,5 m dužine, najvjerojatnije iz skupi-
ne Coelurosaria. Na rtu Trsitke/Debela Glava utvrđeno je tride-
setak otisaka četveronožnih biljojednih dinosaura procijenjene
veličine petnaestak metara koji najvjerojatnije pripadaju skupi-
ni Sauropoda.

Na opisanim lokalitetima pokušalo se, s obzirom na određene
parametre, pretpostaviti brzinu kretanja tih dinosaura. Tako se
pretpostavlja da su se manji sauropodni (biljojedni) dinosauri
kretali brzinom 2-2,5 km/h (što odgovara sporom-polaganom
hodu), a mesožderi, teropodni napadači veličine 5-7 m, brzi-
nom do 10 km/h (što odgovara bržem hodu ili laganom trku).

Sve navedeno rezultiralo je objavom novih znanstvenih rado-
va, kao i raznih stručno-edukativnih publikacija. S ciljem pribli-
žavanja široj javnosti tiskana je dvojezična (hrvatski i engleski)
knjižica/vodič pod naslovom *Šetalište dinosaura/Promenade
of Dinosaurs*, koja na sveobuhvatan način prikazuje rezultate
dotadašnjih istraživanja (BAJRAKTAREVIĆ & MEZGA 2008).

Osim toga u suradnji s NP Brijuni, unificiranim informativnim plo-
čama na četiri jezika (hrvatski, engleski, talijanski i njemački) obi-
lježeni su značajni geološko-paleontološki lokaliteti. Već u prvoj
fazi obilježavanja važnih otočnih lokacija 2005. godine, postav-
ljena je ploča na poluotoku Vrbanj, a uskoro su uslijedile nove.

Godine 2008. obilježen je otisak stopala uočen u bloku va-
pnenca na glavnome molu velobrijunske luke. Bio je to vrlo
lijepo vidljiv tridaktilni (troprsti) teropodni otisak, najsličniji
nekom alosauridu. Pretpostavlja se da je alohtoni kameni blok
s otiskom donesen iz nekog od brijunskih kamenoloma, a nje-
govo obilježavanje informativnom pločom, postala je izvanred-
na prilika, da se svi posjetitelji već pri samom dolasku na otok
upoznaju s vrijednom i zanimljivom paleontološkom baštinom
Brijuna. Uočavanje ovog otiska od strane Z. Bajraktarevića u ru-

A total of 220 footprints were documented, forming 15 track-
ways (13 of which contained dinosaur footprints). The footprints
range in age from the Upper Berriasian (Cape Pogledalo) to the
Upper Albian (Capes Ploče, Kamik/Plješivac, Trstike/Debela
Glava).

In the Upper Berriasian ichnocoenosis, large theropod foot-
prints formed in intertidal environments predominate, attrib-
uted to robust carnososaurs. In the Upper Albian ichnocoenosis,
footprints of small-to-medium theropods, medium-sized orni-
thopods, small ornithopods, medium-sized sauropods, and
indeterminate vertebrates were documented. The footprints
formed in a lagoonal environment intermittently exposed to at-
mospheric conditions.

Footprints of iguanodontid ornithopods represent the first such
finds on the Istrian Peninsula. At Cape Kamik/Plješivac, three
parallel trackways, likely from small theropods, suggest possi-
ble group movement. The estimated speeds of these dinosaurs
range from 5–9 km/h, indicating normal walking.

In Upper Albian limestones (~100 million years old) at Cape
Ploče, 60 footprints of small bipedal carnivores, approximate-
ly 3–4 m in length, were found, likely similar to Coelurosauri-
an predators, believed to be agile and aggressive. About sixty
footprints were also found at Cape Kamik/Plješivac, with larger
tracks attributed to herbivores around 6–6.5 m long, resem-
bling ornithopods or iguanodontids, and smaller tracks to bi-
pedal carnivores around 3.5 m, likely Coelurosaurians. At Cape
Trstike/Debela Glava, approximately thirty quadrupedal herbi-
vore footprints were documented, estimated at 15 m in length,
likely belonging to sauropods.

Based on these parameters, estimated speeds were calculat-
ed: smaller sauropods moved at 2–2.5 km/h (slow to moderate
walking), while larger theropod predators (5–7 m) reached up
to 10 km/h (fast walk or light run).

These findings resulted in new scientific publications and var-
ious professional-educational materials. To engage the wider
public, a bilingual booklet/guide, *Šetalilište dinosaura / Prom-
enade of Dinosaurs*, was published, comprehensively present-
ing the results of prior research (BAJRAKTAREVIĆ & MEZGA,
2008).

In collaboration with Brijuni NP, unified informational boards in
four languages (Croatian, English, Italian, and German) were in-
stalled at significant geo-paleontological sites. The first board
was placed in 2005 on the Vrbanj Peninsula, with additional
boards installed soon after.

In 2008, a tridactyl theropod footprint, likely an allosaurid, was

nu 1999., kao informaciju i kuriozitet popratila je HRT u svojem
TV dnevniku. Naknadno su uz rub istog mola, uočeni još neki,
ali slabije vidljivi otisci.

Ideja o prezentaciji geološko-paleontoloških fenomena na rtu
Ploče prerasla je 2010. u prvu poučno pješačku stazu na Bri-
junima koja prati obalnu liniju poluotoka Zelenikovac u dužini
od 1300 m. Od dvanaest informativnih ploča, sedam ih ukazuje
na geološko-paleontološke fenomene poput otisaka stopala
dinosauria, fosila puža *Nerinea*, fosilnih valnih brazdi i koštane
breče. Ostale informativne ploče označavaju kulturno-povije-
snu baštinu duž staze koja je uskoro upotpunjena s još trinaest
ploča s tematikom otočne flore i faune. Tako je još jednom po-
tvrđena misao Antona Gnirsa (1873. – 1933.), austrijskog kon-
zervatora s početka 20. st., da su Brijuni muzej na otvorenom.
Paralelno s istraživanjima i sve brojnijim rezultatima, došli smo
do ideje o stvaranju i postavljanju originalno izrađene replike
barem jedne prosječne jedinke dinosaura stvarne veličine u
prostor najljepšeg, najbolje vidljivog i dokumentiranog nalazi-
šta, na rtu Pogledalo/Vrbanj/Barban na kojem je danas smje-
šten Park dinosaura.

Tako je vrlo brzo interdisciplinarnim dogovaranjem uslijedio i
angažman poznatog hrvatskog akademskog kipara Stjepana
Gračana, profesora na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti Sveučili-
šta u Zagrebu, kao i njegovog kolege profesora Zlatka Kauzla-
rića-Atača, akademskog slikara i vrlo uspješnog kazališnog
scenografa.

U projektu realizacije skulpture dinosaura sudjelovala je i
akademska kiparica Božica Dea Matasić, suradnica pok. prof.
Gračana, a danas profesorica na Likovnoj akademiji u Osijeku.
Njezin vrlo važan zadatak bio je iz Gračanovog originala – skice
(dimenzija 70 x 40 cm) izraditi dino-skulpturu u prirodnoj veli-
čini (visine 2,70 m, dužine 4,40 m). Original skice koju je autor
darovao prof. Bajraktareviću 2015. godine, poklonio je Geološ-
ko-paleontološkom zavodu PMF-a (Zagreb, Horvatovac 102a) u
kojem je prof. Bajraktarević proveo cijeli radni vijek. Skica je i
danas izložena u prostoru razizemlja.

Po završetku izrade dino-skulpture od stiropora u naravnoj veli-
čini, isti je presvučen posebnom vrstom poliestera i obojen po
uzoru na literaturne podatke, naša saznanja, te savjete Berisla-
va Kržića. Ovaj priznati ilustrator s licencom poznatog svjetskog
časopisa *National Geographic*, ujedno je i autor brojnih popu-
larnih, stručnih i znanstvenih članaka.

Tehnički dio posla i sama finalizacija dino-skulpture, vrlo
uspješno je obavljena u ljevaonici plastičnih brodica Re-
mia-plast d.o.o. u Svetoj Nedelji. U njihovoj režiji skulptura je
uspješno i transportirana do lokacije na Velom Brijunu. Odabir
uže lokacije na rtu Pogledalo realiziran je uz konzultacije čita-
ve ekipe, a posebno uz dragocjene scenografske savjete Zlatka
Kauzlarića-Atača.

marked on a limestone block at the main pier of Veliki Brijun
port. The block, an allochthonous stone brought from one of
the Brijuni quarries, served as an excellent opportunity to intro-
duce visitors to Brijuni’s valuable paleontological heritage. This
footprint, observed by Z. Bajraktarević in September 1999, was
reported by HRT in their TV news. Additional, less-visible tracks
were later noted along the same pier.

The idea to present geological-paleontological phenomena at
Cape Ploče evolved in 2010 into the first educational walking
trail on Brijuni, following the coastal line of the Zelenikovac
Peninsula for 1,300 m.

Of twelve informational boards, seven highlight geo-paleon-
tological phenomena such as dinosaur footprints, Nerinea
fossils, fossil wave ripples, and bone breccia. The remaining
boards feature the cultural-historical heritage along the trail,
later supplemented with thirteen additional boards about local
flora and fauna. This confirmed Anton Gnirs’ early 20th-century
notion that Brijuni is an open-air museum.

Alongside growing research results, the idea emerged to create
and install a life-size replica of at least one average-sized di-
nosaur at the best-preserved site, Cape Pogledalo/Vrbanj/Bar-
ban, where the Dinosaur Park is now located. Croatian academ-
ic sculptor Stjepan Gračan (Academy of Fine Arts, University of
Zagreb) and painter/scenographer Zlatko Kauzlarić-Atač were
engaged in the project. Sculptor Božica Dea Matasić, collabo-
rator of the late Prof. Gračan and now professor at the Academy
of Fine Arts in Osijek, created the life-size dino-sculpture (2.7 m
high, 4.4 m long) based on Gračan’s original 70 × 40 cm sketch,
donated to Prof. Bajraktarević in 2015 and now held at the Geo-
logical-Paleontological Institute, University of Zagreb.

The Styrofoam sculpture was coated with polyester and paint-
ed based on literature, our research, and advice from Berislav
Kržić, illustrator and National Geographic contributor. Final
fabrication and transport were executed by Remia-plast d.o.o.,
Sveti Nedelja, and the sculpture was installed at Veliki Brijun
following team consultations, particularly scenographic advice
from Kauzlarić-Atač.

For educational impact, a nest with seven replica dinosaur

Radi što edukativnijeg utiska, nedaleko skulpture izgrađeno je i gnijezdo s replikama 7 fosilnih jaja dinosaura.⁵ Na kraju, treba spomenuti da je službeno otvorenje, odnosno otkrivanje dino-skulpture simbolično i svečano održano 1. lipnja 2012.

Nova situacija iziskivala je i postavljanje nove, znatno veće informativne ploče s više fotografija i kartom svih otisaka stopala na lokalitetu kako bi se posjetitelji sami mogli iskušati u istraživanju i nalaženju otisaka.

Uprizorenje dinosaura u prirodnoj veličini bio je povod za provođenje edukativnih radionica za vrtićku i osnovnoškolsku djecu. Edukativni programi osmišljeni su kao kombinacija terenskih istraživanja, interaktivne igre i edukacije, a sadržajno se nadovezuju na nastavno gradivo te predstavljaju vid terenske nastave za škole i vrtiće. Organiziraju se radionice *Tragovima dinosaura*, koje se uz ostale programe provode i u okviru Ljetnog kampa/Ljetne škole *Mali čuvari Brijuna*. U proljeće se održavaju *Dani dinosaura* s edukativno-kreativnim radionicama, poučnim igrama, stručnim predavanjima, prezentacijama i pričama prilagođenim djeci, koji bilježe i preko 1000 posjetitelja. Sve posjetitelje dočekuje maskota u obliku dinosaura te osoba koja uprizoruje Bachofen-Echta.

Poneseni uspjehom prve skulpture intenzivirana je ideja o otvaranju Parka dinosaura na cjelokupnoj ograđenoj površini poluotoka Vrbanj, na kojem je svojevremeno trebao biti otvoren arboretum. Postojeća napuštena vojna građevina trebala je postati muzej s prigodnom izložbom i animacijama, filmovima, prostorom za edukaciju, suvenirnicom, a na otvorenom prostoru razmišljalo se o izradi još poneke skulpture dinosaura u prirodnoj veličini uz djelomičnu prezentaciju raslinja iz tog doba, izradi pješčanika za “iskapanje” kostiju i ostale zanimljive sadržaje za djecu. No ostao je to tek projekt.

Ovaj pregledni rad pisan je s namjerom da povodom simbolične stote godišnjice objave Bachofen-Echtova otkrića otisaka stopala dinosaura na Brijunima naglası da je kao visoko školovani paleontolog i znanstvenik onog vremena ujedno bio pionir paleoihnologije na ovim našim prostorima, a i šire u sklopu Sredozemlja. Ovaj austrijski paleontolog zapravo je utro put paleontološkim opažanjima koja su postala poticaj i znanstveno stručni poligon na prostoru danas uvriježenog i validnog geološkog regionalnog pojma Jadranske karbonatne platforme (ADCP). Tome u prilog idu i mnogobrojni znanstveni i stručni

eggs⁵ was built near the sculpture. The official unveiling took place on June 1, 2012. A new, larger informational board with photos and a footprint map was installed, allowing visitors to explore the site independently.

The life-size dinosaur exhibit facilitated educational workshops for kindergarten and elementary school children, combining field research, interactive play, and instruction, complementing school curricula. Programs include *Following Dinosaur Tracks* and activities within the *Summer Camp / Little Brijuni Rangers*. Spring events, *Dinosaur Days*, feature workshops, games, lectures, presentations, and storytelling, attracting over 1,000 visitors. Children are greeted by a dinosaur mascot and a Bachofen-Echt character.

Buoyed by the first sculpture’s success, the idea arose to expand the Dinosaur Park across the Vrbanj Peninsula, previously planned for an arboretum.

Plans included converting an abandoned military building into a museum with exhibitions, educational spaces, films, and souvenirs, along with outdoor life-size dinosaur sculptures, displays of contemporary vegetation, and sandboxes for fossil excavation. This, however, remains a project.

This review was written to mark the symbolic centenary of Bachofen-Echt’s discovery of dinosaur footprints on Brijuni, emphasizing that as a highly educated paleontologist of his time, he was a pioneer of paleoichnology in the region and across the Mediterranean. His work laid the foundation for paleontological observations that became a scientific and educational platform within today’s widely recognized Adriatic Carbonate Platform (AdCP). Numerous international and Croatian publications further support this legacy.

This overview demonstrates that through collaboration among multiple disciplines and institutions, modest financial resources, and considerable professional and scientific enthusiasm, significant contributions can be made to scientific tourism and educational programs, not only at Brijuni NP but across other national and nature parks in Croatia.

5 Kalup dino-skulpture kao i rezervne replike fosilnih jaja čuvaju se na Brijunima, u prostorima Odjela za zaštitu kulturnih dobara koji brine o održavanju te redovitoj sanaciji skulpture. Osamljeni položaj na rtu Vrbanj omogućuje neodgovornim posjetiteljima, među kojima nažalost nisu samo djeca, da skulpturu koriste kao penjalicu uslijed čega dolazi do oštećenja. Kalup skulpture je 2019. posuđen Hrvatskom prirodoslovnom muzeju u Zagrebu za izradu replike skulpture za potrebe manifestacije *Muzeji izvan muzeja* koja je 10. - 17. svibnja bila izložena na Trgu Bana Josipa Jelačića, da bi potom bila prezentirana u atriju Hrvatskog prirodoslovnog muzeja.

5 The mold of the dino-skulpture, as well as the spare replicas of the fossil eggs, are kept on Brijuni in the premises of the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, which is responsible for the sculpture’s maintenance and regular restoration. The isolated location on Rt Vrbanj unfortunately allows irresponsible visitors, not only children, to use the sculpture as a climbing structure, resulting in damage. In 2019, the sculpture mold was loaned to the Croatian Natural History Museum in Zagreb to create a replica of the sculpture for the event *Museums Outside the Museum*, which was exhibited from May 10th to 17th at Ban Josip Jelačić Square, and later presented in the atrium of the Croatian Natural History Museum.

radovi inozemnih i naših autora, koje za ovu priliku nismo detaljnije i do kraja obradili, jer smo na primjeru suradnje članica fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu i JU NP Brijuni željeli kronološki prikazati da je uz suradnju predstavnika raznih struka i institucija moguće uz skromnu financijsku potporu, ali uz veliki stručni i znanstveni entuzijazam i osobni angažman doprinijeti, između ostalog, i razvoju znanstvenog turizma i raznih oblika edukacija. Pri tom se ne misli samo na Nacionalni park Brijuni, već i na ostale nacionalne parkove i parkove prirode Republike Hrvatske.

Naša želja i poruka bila bi da se puno intenzivnije nastave svi vidovi suradnje na znanstvenim istraživanjima te posveti veća briga očuvanju naše nacionalne baštine, njene promocije i prezentacije na što bolji, objektivniji i suvremeniji način.



Slika 7: Fosilni trag sauropodnog dinosaura s nalazišta unutar PP Bio-kovo, srednji cenoman, mlađa kreda, starosti oko 95 milijuna godina; autor fotografije: Irina Žeger Pleše

Figure 7: Fossil track of a sauropod dinosaur from a site within the Bio-kovo Nature Park, Middle Cenomanian, Late Cretaceous, approximately 95 million years old; photo by Irina Žeger Pleše

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Slika 8: Martin Lockley
(izvor: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Lockley)
Figure 8: Martin Lockley (source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Lockley).



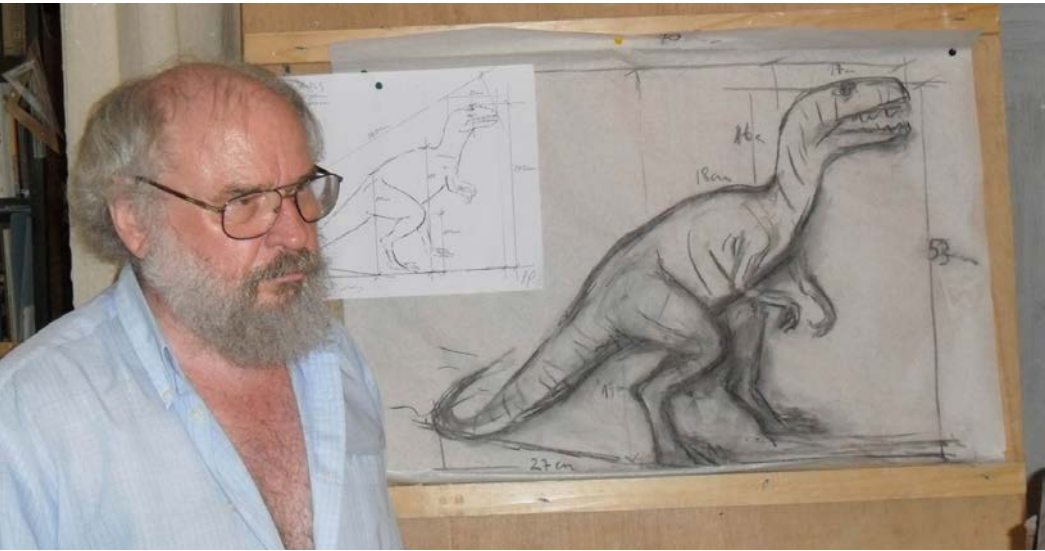
Slika 10: Vapnenačka ploča s otiskom stopala dinosaura (inv.br. BRI_GP-2); fotografija: Fototeka Odsjeka za zaštitu kulturnih dobara JU NP Brijuni
Figure 10: Limestone slab with a dinosaur footprint (inv. no. BRI_GP-2); Photo: Photographic Archive of the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Brijuni National Park Public Institution.



Slika 9: Ante Polšak; fotografija: arhiva GPZ-a
Figure 9: Ante Polšak; Photo: Archive of the Geological-Paleontological Department

PRILOZI

CONTRIBUTIONS



Slika 11: Stjepan Gračan; autor fotografije: Zlatan Bajraktarević
Figure 11: Stjepan Gračan; Photo: Zlatan Bajraktarević.



Slika 12: Christian Myer, Aleksandar Mezga i Zlatan Bajraktarević na otoku Vangi 13.listopada 2002. godine, NP Brijuni; Fototeka Odsjeka za zaštitu kulturnih dobara JU NP Brijuni
Figure 12: Christian Myer, Aleksandar Mezga, and Zlatan Bajraktarević on the island of Vanga, October 13, 2002, Brijuni National Park; Photographic Archive of the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Brijuni National Park Public Institution.



Slika 13: Povodom 140. godišnjice osnutka Geološko-paleontološkog zavoda geološkog odsjeka PMF-a. Kameni blok s otiscima stopala dinosaura iz kamenoloma Kirmenjaka u rujnu 2015. postavljen je ispred zgrade PMF-a u Zagrebu; autor fotografije: Zlatan Bajraktarević.
Figure 13: On the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the Geological-Paleontological Department, a stone block with dinosaur footprints from the Kirmenjaka quarry was installed in front of the Faculty of Science in Zagreb in September 2015.; Photo: Zlatan Bajraktarević.



↑ **Slika 17:** U svečanom otkrivanju dino-skulpture sudjelovala su djeca iz fažanskog vrtića; autor fotografije: Zlatan Bajraktarević
Figure 17: Children from the Fažana kindergarten participated in the ceremonial unveiling of the dinosaur sculpture (Photo: Zlatan Bajraktarević).

← **Slika 18:** Otvorenje dino-skulpture na rtu Pogledalo 1. lipnja 2012. S lijeva na desno: Eduard Kolić, Sandro Dujmović, Stjepan Gračan, Mira Pavletić, Berislav Kržić, Zlatan Bajraktarević i Zlatko Kauzlarić-Atač; autor fotografije: osobna arhiva
← **Figure 18:** Opening of the dinosaur sculpture at Cape Pogledalo on June 1, 2012. From left to right: Eduard Kolić, Sandro Dujmović, Stjepan Gračan, Mira Pavletić, Berislav Kržić, Zlatan Bajraktarević, and Zlatko Kauzlarić-Atač (Photo: personal archive).



↑ **Slika 19:** Dino-skulptura dinosaura na rtu Pogledalo smještena je nedaleko otisaka stopala nastalih prije 123 milijuna godina (u prvom planu); fototeka Odsjeka za zaštitu kulturnih dobara JU NP Brijuni

↑ **Figure 19:** The dinosaur sculpture at Cape Pogledalo is located near dinosaur footprints formed 123 million years ago (foreground); photo: Photographic Archive of the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Brijuni National Park Public Institution.



ZBIRKA SAŽETAKA POZVANIH
PREDAVANJA

COLLECTION OF ABSTRACTS OF
INVITED LECTURES



DINOSAURI: KOSTI IZ
PROŠLOSTI, ZNANOST
BUDUĆNOSTI

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Ključne riječi: dinosaur, paleontologija, paleobiologija, mezo-
zoik



Još od njihova otkrića početkom 19. stoljeća, dinosauri pobu-
đuju zanimanje kako znanstvenika koji ih proučavaju, tako i
šire javnosti. Naše se razumijevanje o tim mezozojskim gma-
zovima znatno mijenjalo s prolaskom vremena — od prvotnog
shvaćanja dinosaura kao hladnokrvnih divovskih guštera, pa
sve do današnje slike o aktivnim, dinamičnim životinjama,
sličnijima njihovim živućim predstavnicima — pticama. Ta
promjenjiva interpretacija još je daleko od konačne; 21. sto-
ljeće zlatno je doba otkrića dinosaura, s više novotkrivenih
vrsta svake godine nego ikada prije. Izvanredni fosilni mate-
rijal otkriven u novije vrijeme neprestano name ukazuje na
nove oblike, veličine i ekološke uloge izumrlih dinosaura. U
korak s tim zapanjujućim otkrićima i tehnološkim napretkom,
aktivna istraživanja u rastućem polju paleobiologije počinju
otkrivati aspekte života dinosaura za koje se prije smatralo da
su nedostupna našoj spoznaji; od aspekata vanjskog izgleda
kao što su pokrova tijelnesni pokrov i boja, pa sve do promje-
na tijekom rasta i ožiljaka zadobivenih u borbama tijekom ži-
vota. Budući da su dinosauri predstavljali dominantne velike
kopnene životinje tijekom većeg dijela mezozoika, suvremena
paleontologija nastoji odgovoriti na niz pitanja o njihovu po-
drijetlu, usponu do dominacije, globalnom rasprostranjenju te
odnosima među i unutar različitih skupina dinosaura. Iako je
izumiranje dinosaura dobro shvaćeno u kontekstu masovnog
izumiranja na prijelazu između kreda i paleogena, prethodno
spomenute teme usko su povezane s dvama drugim velikim
izumiranjima u povijesti Zemlje — onima na granici perm–tri-
jas i trijas–jura. Odgovori na mnoga od tih pitanja zahtijevaju
nova otkrića u regijama svijeta koje su još uvijek nedovoljno
paleontološki istražene. Iznenadujuće mogućnosti za buduća
otkrića postoje i u Hrvatskoj. Kao dio Jadranske karbonatne
platforme tijekom velikog dijela mezozoika, obalni dijelovi
Hrvatske dosad su većinom bili poznati po otiscima stopala
dinosaur, no fosilne kosti pronađene 1990-ih godina na dnu
mora u uvali Kolone kraj Bala u Istri upućuju na prisutnost
podmorskog fosilnog ležišta s kostima dinosaura. Sačuvane
u otočnim jezerskim sedimentima ranokredne starosti, usred
inače gotovo isključivo morskog okoliša, uvala Kolone obeća-

DINOSAURS: BONES FROM
THE PAST, SCIENCE OF THE
FUTURE

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Keywords: Dinosaur, Paleontology, Paleobiology, Mesozoic



Ever since their discovery in the early 19th century, dinosaurs
have piqued the interest of both the researchers studying
them and the general public alike. Our changing idea of these
Mesozoic reptiles is a saga that spans the first conceptions
of these animals as cold-blooded giant lizards, all the way
through to the modern image of active, dynamic creatures
more akin to their living representatives, the birds. This chang-
ing interpretation is far from concluded, though; the 21st cen-
tury is a golden age of dinosaur discoveries, and more new
species are discovered each year than ever before. Remarka-
ble recently discovered fossil material keeps revealing novel
shapes, sizes and ecological roles of the extinct dinosaurs.
Keeping pace with such remarkable discoveries and advance-
ments in technology, active research in the emerging field of
paleobiology is starting to reveal aspect of dinosaurs’ lives
never before thought knowable; from aspects of appearance
such as integument and color, to changes that occurred dur-
ing growth and battle scars earned during life. As dinosaurs
represented dominant large terrestrial animals during much
of the Mesozoic, modern paleontology is actively trying to an-
swer a series of questions on the origins, rise to dominance
and global dispersal, and intra- and inter-relationships of vari-
ous dinosaur groups. Although the demise of dinosaurs is well
understood in the context of the Cretaceous–Paleogene mass
extinction event, the aforementioned topics are intrinsically
linked to two of the Earth’s other mass extinctions, the Per-
mian–Triassic and the Triassic–Jurassic extinction events. An-
swering many of these questions requires further discoveries
in some of the under-sampled regions of the world. Surprising
prospects for future discoveries likewise exist in Croatia. Part
of the Adriatic Carbonate Platform during much of the Meso-
zoic, the coastal regions of Croatia have so far yield mostly
dinosaur footprints, fossil bones recovered during the 1990’s
from the bottom of the sea in the Kolone bay near Bale, Istria
hint at the presence of an underwater dinosaur bonebed. Pre-
served in the Early Cretaceous Island lake sediments in the
midst of the otherwise almost fully marine environment, the
Kolone bay promises to provide new insight into the dinosaur

va pružiti novi uvid u faunu dinosaura iz jedinstvenog okoliša unutar regije koja je dosad ostala enigmatična u kontekstu istraživanja dinosaura.

Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje
Tema: paleontologija kralježnjaka

fauna from a unique environment in a region that has up to this point remained enigmatic in terms of dinosaur research.

Type of presentation: Invited Lecture
Topic: Vertebrate paleontology



Slika 20: Model malog teropodnog dinosaura u prirodnoj veličini na poučnoj stazi “Putevima dinosaura” na području Kamenjaka; autor fotografije: JU Kamenjak

Figure 20: Model of a small theropod dinosaur in life size on the educational trail “In the Footsteps of Dinosaurs” in the Kamenjak area; Photo by the Public Institution Kamenjak.

IHNOCENOZE DINOSAURA NA JADRANSKOJ KARBONATNOJ PLATFORMI

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Ključne riječi: otisci stopala dinosaura, ihnocenoze, Jadranska karbonatna platforma, paleoekologija, paleobiogeografija



Na području nekadašnje Jadranske karbonatne platforme (AdCP) otkriveno je 25 nalazišta s otiscima stopala dinosaura; 22 od njih na istarskom poluotoku, 2 u Dalmaciji, te 1 u Italiji. Stratigrafski raspon ovih nalaza je od kasnog titona do ranog konijaka. Među tim nalazištima prepoznato je pet različitih vrsta dinosaura koji uključuju male do srednje velike teropode, velike teropode, srednje velike ornitopode i srednje do velike sauropode. Ukupno je pronađeno preko dvije tisuće pojedinačnih otisaka stopala, kao i preko stotinu staza kretanja. Među tim otiscima stopala većina pripada sauropodima (preko tisuću; sl. 21), zatim teropodima (oko tisuću; sl. 22) i konačno ornitopodima (tridesetak). Sedam stratigrafski različitih ihnocenoza definirano je među 25 utvrđenih ihnozajednica (Tab. 1).

DINOSAUR ICHNOCOENOSSES ON THE ADRIATIC CARBONATE PLATFORM

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Keywords: dinosaur footprints, ichnocoenoses, Adriatic carbonate platform, palaeoecology, palaeobiogeography



Within the area of the former Adriatic carbonate platform (AdCP) 25 sites with dinosaur footprints have been discovered; 22 of them on the Istrian peninsula, 2 in Dalmatia and 1 in Italy. Stratigraphic range of these findings is Late Tithonian–Early Coniacian. Five different kinds of dinosaurs have been recognized among these sites. They include small–mid sized theropods, large theropods, mid sized ornithopods and mid–large sized sauropods. A total of over two thousand single footprints have been found as well as over one hundred trackways. Among these footprints the majority belong to sauropods (over a thousand; Fig. 21), then theropods (about a thousand; Fig. 22) and finally ornithopods (about thirty). Seven stratigraphically different ichnocoenoses were defined among 25 determined ichnoassemblages (Tab. 1).

IHNOCENOZA ICHNOCOENOSIS	TIP OTISKA STOPALA FOOTPRINT TYPE	IHNOZAJEDNICA ICHNOASSEMBLAGE
kasni turon/rani konijak Late Turonian/Early Coniacian	sauropodi sauropods	2
kasni cenoman Late Cenomanian	sauropodi, teropodi sauropods, theropods	7
kasni alb Late Albian	sauropodi, teropodi, ornitopodi sauropods, theropods, ornithopods	11
kasni barem Late Barremian	teropodi theropods	1
kasni otriv Late Hauterivian	sauropodi, teropodi sauropods, theropods	1
rani otriv Early Hauterivian	sauropodi, teropodi sauropods, theropods	2
kasni titon Late Tithonian	sauropodi sauropods	1

Tablica 1: Ihnocenoze dinosaura s područja nekadašnje AdCP.
Table 1: Dinosaur ichnocoenoses from the former AdCP.

Sve ihnocenoze pripisane su *Brontopodus* ichnofacijsu. U vremenskom intervalu kasni titon – kasni otriv faunom su dominirali diplodokoidni sauropodi. U razdoblju kasni otriv - kasni barem, uz njih su bili prisutni i titanosauriformni sauropodi, kao i veliki ‘karnosaurni’ teropodi. Tijekom razdoblja kasni alb - kasni cenoman fauna je bila vrlo bogata, a biljojedi uključuju titanosaurne i netitanosaurne sauropode, kao i iguanodontidne ornitopode. Među mesožderima prevladavaju mali do srednje veliki ‘celurosaurni’ teropodi, ali prisutni su i veliki ‘karnosaurni’ teropodi. Titanosaurni sauropodi predstavljali su faunu tijekom kasnog turona/ranog konijaka.

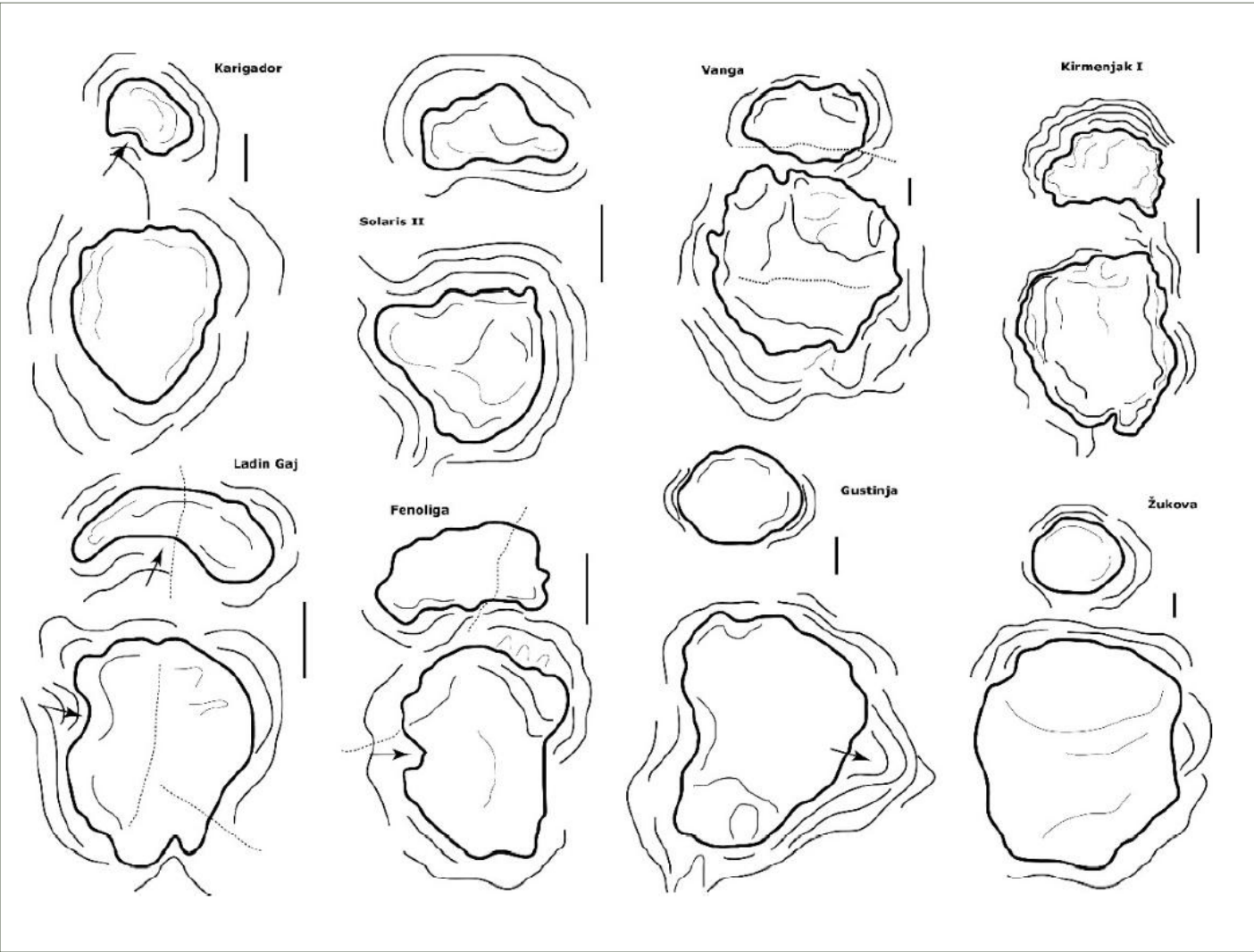
All ichnocoenoses are assigned to the *Brontopodus* ichnofacies. During the Late Tithonian–Late Hauterivian the fauna was dominated by diplodocoid sauropods. In the Late Hauterivian–Late Barremian, there were also the titanosauriform sauropods beside them, as well as large ‘carnosaurian’ theropods. During the period of Late Albian–Late Cenomanian the fauna was very rich and herbivores include the titanosaurian and non–titanosaurian sauropods as well as iguanodontid ornithopods. Among the carnivores small–mid sized ‘coelurosaurian’ theropods prevail, but large ‘carnosaurian’ theropods are also present. Titanosaurian sauropods presented the fauna during the Late Turonian/Early Coniacian.

Kopnena površina za nabrojene faune dinosaura morala je biti višestruko veća od površine bivšeg AdCP-a. Ti dinosauri nisu mogli živjeti i preživjeti na površini AdCP-a ili čak u okolišu karbonatne platforme. Ekosustav s otkrivenim dinosaurima zahtijeva kopnenu površinu od otprilike 1-4 milijuna km², ovisno o stratigrafskom rasponu za specifične taksone. Potpuno okopnjena Jadranska mikroploča ili Južnotetiska megaplatforma mogla bi predstavljati kopnenu površinu dovoljno veliku da održi populacije dinosaura i ekosustav čiji su bili dio. To implicira kontinuiranu ili sporadičnu vezu, ne samo između karbonatnih platformi na Južnotetiskoj megaplatformi, već i između nje i obližnjih kontinenata.

The land area for the given dinosaur faunas has had to be multiple larger than the area of the former AdCP. Those dinosaurs could not live and survive on the AdCP area or even in the carbonate platform environment. The ecosystem with discovered dinosaurs demands the land area of app. 1–4 million km², depending of the stratigraphic range for the specific taxa. Fully terrestrialized Adria microplate or Southern Tethyan megaplatform might represent the land area large enough to sustain the dinosaur populations and the ecosystem which they were the part of. This implies the continuous or sporadic connection, not just between the carbonate platforms on the Southern Tethyan megaplatform, but between it and the nearby continents.

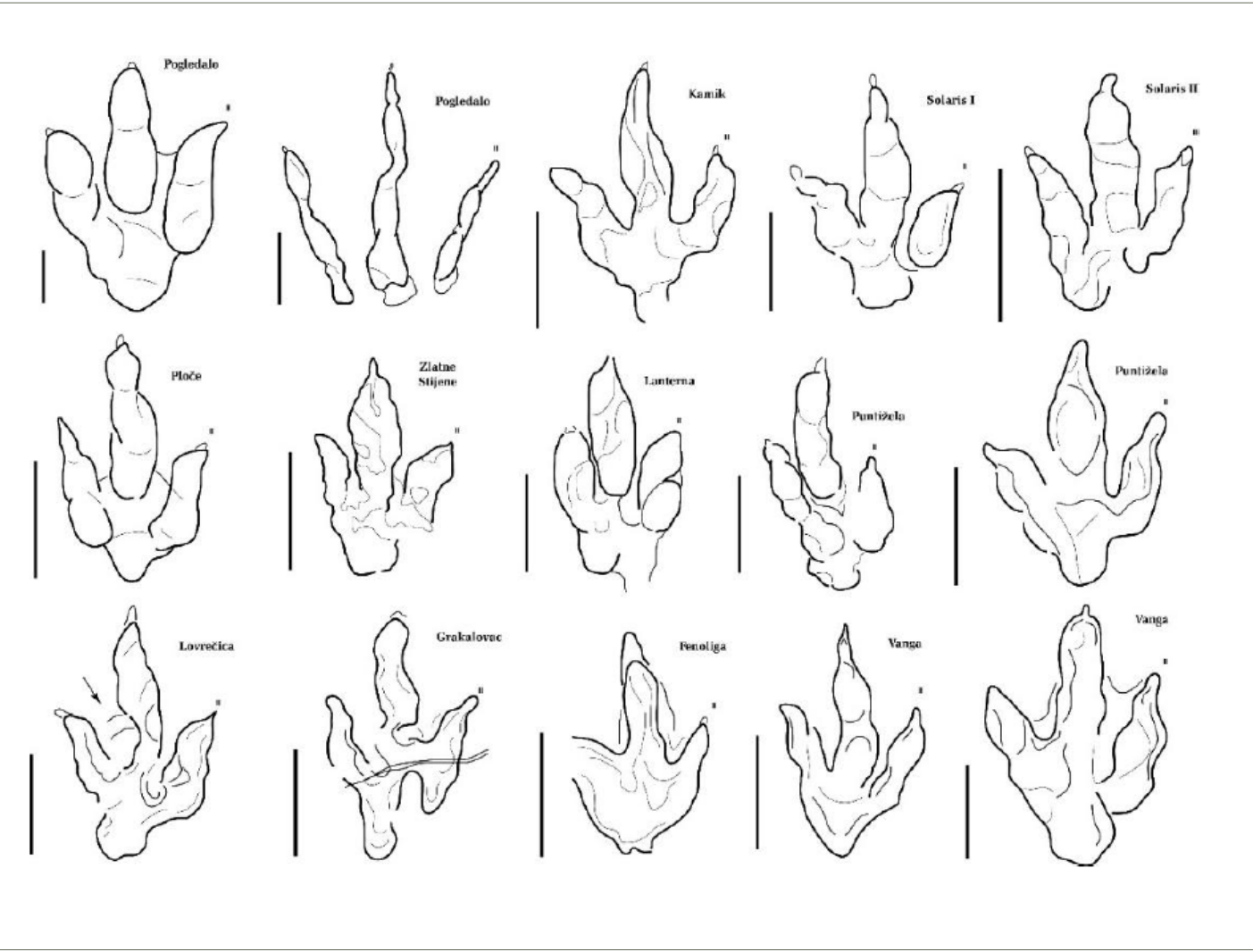
Vrsta prezentacije: Plenarno predavanje
Tema: Paleoihnologija

Type of presentation: Plenary Lecture
Theme: Paleoihnology



Slika 21: Otisci stopala sauropoda s nalazišta na AdCP-u; mjerilo = 10 cm.

Figure 21: Sauropod footprints from the AdCP localities; scale bar = 10 cm.



Slika 22: Otisci stopala teropoda s nalazišta na AdCP-u; mjerilo = 10 cm.

Figure 22: Theropod footprints from the AdCP localities; scale bar = 10 cm.

MIKROPALEONTOLOŠKA I PALINOLOŠKA ISTRAŽIVANJA NA PODRUČJU NACIONALNOG PARKA BRIJUNI

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Ključne riječi: paleontologija, palinologija, dinosauri, starija kreda



Geološka i paleontološka istraživanja temeljna su za poznavanje određenog terena, a posebice javno dostupnih i edukativnih područja poput nacionalnih parkova. Istraživanja fosilnih nalaza vezana za prepoznate tragove stopala dinosaura i drugih gmazova na području Brijunskog otočja (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; MEZGA i sur., 2007), kao i njihov prikaz javnosti, daju dodatni turistički značaj području nacionalnog parka. Ovakvi su prikazi atraktivni posjetiteljima, ali i znanstveno potkrepljeni, čime doprinose popularizaciji geologije i geoznanosti u cjelini.

Kako je život vezan i za makroskopske i za mikroskopske organizme, iako manje vidljivi, nalazi mikrofosila daju nam značajne informacije o nekadašnjim okolišima i promjenama u njima. Na području NP Brijuni za potrebe ovog istraživanja uzorkovane su donjokredne naslage gdje su prethodno definirani otisci stopala dinosaura (rt Pogledalo, rt Ploče, rt Kamik, rt Trstike, lokacije na otocima Vanga i Galija) kako bi se odredili mikrofosilni sadržaj i mikrofakijesi. Prikupljeni uzorci klasificirani su kao vekstoni, pekstoni i grejnstoni (prema DUNHAM, 1962), nastali u plitkomorskom području nekadašnje Jadranske karbonatne platforme (VLAHOVIĆ i sur., 2005). Na temelju fosilnih nalaza algi, koralja, ostrakoda, školjkaša, puževa te posebice foraminifera, poput rodova *Glomospira* sp., *Nezzazata* sp., *Nummuloculina* sp. naslage su potvrđene kao donjokredne, dok vrsta *Pseudonummoloculina heimi* (Bonet, 1956) ukazuje na albsku starost dijela naslaga (VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR, 1987; VELIĆ, 2007). Određeni facijesi ukazuju na plitkomorski okoliš, vjerojatno i zaštićeni prostor lagune te područje plimnih ravnica, u kojima

MICROPALEONTOLOGICAL AND PALYNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE AREA OF BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK

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Keywords: paleontology, palinology, dinosaurs, Early Cretaceous



Geological and paleontological research is fundamental to understand a certain terrain, especially in the case of frequently visited educational areas such as national parks. Fossil footprints of dinosaurs and other reptiles in the area of the Brijuni National Park (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; MEZGA et al., 2007), as well as their presentation to the public, represent also a valuable tourist attraction. Such findings are attractive to visitors, but should also be scientifically substantiated, thereby contributing to the popularization of geology and geosciences in general.

As living organisms exist on both macroscopic and microscopic scale, although less visible, microfossil findings provide significant information about (paleo)environments and environmental changes.

For the purpose of this research, sampling was done within the area of the Brijuni National Park, at several sites where dinosaur footprints were previously documented (Cape Pogledalo, Cape Ploče, Cape Kamik, Cape Trstike, locations on the Vanga and Galija islands), in order to determine microfossil content and microfacies. Collected samples were classified as wackestones, packstones and grainstones (according to DUNHAM, 1962), deposited during the Early Cretaceous in shallow marine areas of the former Adriatic Carbonate Platform (VLAHOVIĆ et al., 2005). Fossil findings of algae, corals, ostracods, bivalves, gastropods and especially foraminifera, genera *Glomospira* sp., *Nezzazata* sp. and *Nummuloculina* sp. confirm the Lower Cretaceous age of the studied deposits. The presence of *Pseudonummoloculi-*

je povremeno bio prisutan utjecaj valova ili čak oluja.

Uzorci sa svih šest lokaliteta pripremljeni su za palinološke analize kako bi se odredili pelud i spore fosilnih biljaka, koje su moguće bile i hrana biljojednim dinosaurima tijekom perioda krede. Nažalost, u slojevima koji sadrže otiske stopala dinosaura nisu nađeni ostatci peluda i spora. U uzorcima u podini i krovini zabilježeni su nalazi peluda četinjača, spore paprati i likopsida, hife mikroriznih gljiva te zelene alge. Određeni su: *Pinuspollenites* sp. iz porodice četinjača *Pinaceae*, spore paprati *Cyathidites minor*, *Dictyotosporites speciosus*, *Gleicheniidites* sp. koje vjerojatno pripadaju papratima iz porodica *Cyatheaceae*/*Dipteridaceae*/*Matoniaceae* i *Gleicheniaceae*, spore likopsida *Lycopodiacidites* sp. i izumrle vrste *Retitriletes austroclavatidites*. Određene su i hife i spore gljiva rodova *Glomus* sp. i *Fractisporonites* sp. te ciste i zigospore zelenih algi *Tasmanites* sp. i *Ovoidites* sp. Navedeni nalazi ne pomažu točnijoj odredbi stratigrafske pripadnosti naslaga, jer se kontinuirano javljaju kroz dugi period geološke prošlosti, ali nam njihova prisutnost, zajedno s ostalim mikrofosilnim sadržajem, ali i nalazima otisaka stopala gmazova, ukazuje na plitkomorski facijes karbonatne platforme u kojem je uočen utjecaj kopnenih biljaka, a time i moguća blizina kopna i slatkih voda tijekom starije krede. Nalazi navedenih peluda i spora u donjokrednim naslagama karbonatne platforme, s papratima koje obilježavaju nizinska, povremeno i sušna područja te likopsidima karakterističnim za riječna ili močvarna staništa, podržavaju pretpostavku o toploj i uglavnoj vlažnoj klimi.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje
Tema: Paleontologija

na heimi (Bonet, 1956) points to Albian (VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR, 1987; VELIĆ, 2007). Determined facies suggest deposition in shallow marine, or even protected lagoonal areas and low-energy tidal flats, with occasional influence of waves or even storms.

Samples from all six sites were prepared for palynological analysis to determine pollen and spores of fossil plants, which may have formed the diet of the herbivorous dinosaurs during the Cretaceous period. Unfortunately, no pollen and spore remains were found in the layers containing dinosaur footprints. Findings in the layers below and above the dinosaur footprints include pollen of conifers, fern and lycopsid spores, hyphae of mycorrhizal fungi, together with green algae. The determined genera and species include: *Pinuspollenites* sp. from the *Pinaceae* conifer family, fern spores *Cyathidites minor*, *Dictyosporites speciosus*, *Gleicheniidites* sp. belonging likely to the *Cyatheaceae*/*Dipteridaceae*/*Matoniaceae* and *Gleicheniaceae* fern, and lycopsid spores *Lycopodiacidites* sp. and the extinct species *Retitriletes austroclavatidites*. Hyphae and spores of the *Glomus* sp. and *Fractisporonites* sp. fungi, and phycoma of the prasinophyte *Tasmanites* sp. and zygospores of green algae, *Ovoidites* sp., are also present. Even though our palynomorph findings do not allow more precise stratigraphic determination of the studied deposits due to their occurrence throughout a long period of geological time, their presence, together with determined microfossil content, indicate deposition in shallow marine areas of the carbonate platform with the influence of terrestrial plants and therefore possible proximity of the land and freshwater during the Early Cretaceous. The determined pollen and spores, with the fern taxa being typical for lowlands and occasionally dry environments, and lycopsids for riverine or marsh habitats, are in agreement with the expected warm and mostly humid climate during the Early Cretaceous.

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Type of presentation: Invited Lecture
Topic: Paleontology

FOSILI DINOSAURA
KAMENJAKA: EDUKACIJA,
INTERPRETACIJA I IZAZOVI
UPRAVLJANJA ZAŠTIĆENIM
LOKALITETIMA

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Ključne riječi: fosilni otisci stopala dinosaura, JU Kamenjak, Grakalovac, Fenoliga, zaštita prirode,



Fosili dinosaura u Republici Hrvatskoj, zbog svoje iznimne znanstvene i edukativne vrijednosti te nacionalnog i međunarodnog značaja, proglašeni su zaštićenim dijelovima prirode (Rješenje o proglašenju fosila dinosaura i njihovih nalazišta zaštićenim dijelovima prirode, Narodne novine, 40/2021). Na samom jugu Istre, pronalazimo dva nalazišta otisaka stopala dinosaura - otok Fenoliga i rt Grakalovac, oba na području Značajnog krajobraza Donji Kamenjak i medulinski arhipelag.

Unatoč maloj površini, područje Donjeg Kamenjaka obiluje florističkim, krajobraznim i paleontološkim vrijednostima te je jedno od posjećenijih zaštićenih područja u Republici Hrvatskoj. Sve navedeno predstavlja izazove u upravljanju paleontološkim lokalitetima u nadležnosti Javne ustanove Kamenjak. Uz zaštitu i očuvanje prirodnih vrijednosti, edukacija i interpretacija prirodne baštine jedne su od ključnih djelatnosti Ustanove. Poseban naglasak stavljen je na poučno paleontološku stazu „Putevima dinosaura“, uređenu 2010. godine, a obnovljenu 2020., koja posjetiteljima približava geološku prošlost putem modela dinosaura te organizama poput rudista i amonita koje možemo pronaći na Kamenjaku. Istovremeno, očuvanje lokaliteta zahtijeva posebne napore tijekom ljetne sezone kada na području boravi više tisuća posjetitelja dnevno, što stvara intenzivan pritisak na obalne dijelove.

Budući razvojni planovi Ustanove usmjereni su na dodatnu interpretaciju paleontološke i geološke baštine kroz osnivanje interpretativnog punkta Grakalovac, za koji je 2022. izrađen idejni projekt. Time se nastoji unaprijediti zaštita lokaliteta, potaknuti edukacija te osigurati održivi razvoj područja.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje
Tema: Zaštita prirode

DINOSAUR FOSSILS OF
KAMENJAK: EDUCATION,
INTERPRETATION AND
CHALLENGES IN MANAGING
PROTECTED SITES

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Keywords: fossil dinosaur footprints, PI Kamenjak, Grakalovac, Fenoliga, nature protection



Dinosaur fossils in the Republic of Croatia, due to their exceptional scientific and educational value as well as their national and international importance, have been declared protected natural features (Decision on the declaration of dinosaur fossils and their sites as protected natural features, Official Gazette, 40/2021). At the very south of Istria, two sites with dinosaur footprints can be found – Fenoliga Island and Cape Grakalovac – both located within the Significant Landscape of Lower Kamenjak and the Medulin Archipelago.

Despite its small size, the area of Lower Kamenjak abounds in floristic, landscape, and paleontological values, making it one of the most visited protected areas in the Republic of Croatia. All of this poses challenges for the management of paleontological sites under the jurisdiction of the Public Institution Kamenjak. In addition to protecting and preserving natural values, education and the interpretation of natural heritage are among the Institution’s key activities. Special emphasis is placed on the educational paleontological trail “Paths of the Dinosaurs”, established in 2010 and renovated in 2020, which introduces visitors to the geological past through dinosaur models as well as organisms such as rudists and ammonites that can be found at Kamenjak. At the same time, preserving the sites requires special efforts during the summer season, when several thousand visitors per day stay in the area, creating significant pressure on the coastal zones.

Future development plans of the Institution are focused on further interpretation of paleontological and geological heritage through the establishment of the Grakalovac Interpretation Point, for which a conceptual design was prepared in 2022. This initiative aims to improve site protection, encourage education, and ensure the sustainable development of the area.

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Type of presentation: Invited Lecture
Topic: Nature protection

PALEOGEOGRAFIJA
JADRANSKE KARBONATNE
PLATFORME U DOBA
DINOSAURA

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Ključne riječi: dinosauri, Jadranska karbonatna platforma, jura, kreda, Istra



Uvod

Jadranska karbonatna platforma (JKP) jedna je od najvećih, najdugotrajnijih i najbolje očuvanih Perimediteranskih karbonatnih platforma (VLAHOVIĆ i sur., 2005). Nalazi se na Jadranskoj mikroploči, relativno stabilnom bloku kontinentalne kore koji je odvojen od Gondwane dezintegracijom superkontinenta Pangaea krajem trijasa i početkom jure.

Stabilna subsidencija, dugotrajna izoliranost od kontinentalnog utjecaja i povoljni klimatski uvjeti u tropskim i subtropskim područjima omogućili su uvjete vrlo povoljne za proizvodnju velike količine karbonatnog materijala. Stoga je tijekom gotovo 120 milijuna godina postojanja JKP istaložen više tisuća metara debeo slijed pretežito plitkomorskih karbonata, nerijetko obilježenih ciklusima oplićavanja naviše.

Paleogeografija Jadranske karbonatne platforme

Jadranska karbonatna platforma kao samostalni paleogeografski entitet nastala je odvajanjem od susjednih karbonatnih platforma tijekom toarcija, najmlađeg dijela starije jure (prije približno 180 mil. god.). U to je vrijeme međudjelovanjem ekstenzijske tektonike i Toarcijskog oceanskog anoksičnog događaja (SABATINO i sur., 2013) središnji dio Jadranske mikroploče produbljen čime je nastao Jadranski bazen, dok su na okolnim plićim područjima uspostavljene tri odvojene karbonatne platforme – JKP kao dio Vanjskih Dinarida, i Apeninska i Apulijska karbonatna platforma koje su danas integralni dio Apenina.

Tijekom srednje jure taložen je debeli slijed karbonata u pretežito mirnim, lagunarnim uvjetima, dok je u mlađoj juri, u razdoblju kimeridža (prije približno 155 mil. god.), zabilježena značajna paleogeografska diferencijacija zbog obdukcije ofiolita duž sjevernog ruba Jadranske mikroploče. Tijekom tog do-

PALEOGEOGRAPHY OF THE
ADRIATAIC CARBONATE
PLATFORM IN THE ERA OF
DINOSAURUS

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Keywords: Dinosaurs, Adriatic Carbonate Platform, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Istria



Introduction

The Adriatic Carbonate Platform (AdCP) is one of the largest, longest-lasting and best-preserved Peri-Mediterranean carbonate platforms (VLAHOVIĆ et al., 2005). It is located on the Adriatic Microplate, a relatively stable block of continental crust separated from Gondwana by the disintegration of the supercontinent Pangaea during the end-Triassic and Early Jurassic. Stable subsidence, long-term isolation from continental influence and favourable climatic conditions in tropical and subtropical areas provided conditions ideal for the production of large quantities of carbonate material. Therefore, during the almost 120 million years of the existence of the AdCP, a sequence of predominantly shallow-sea carbonates several thousand meters thick was deposited, often marked by shallowing-upward cycles.

Paleogeography of the Adriatic Carbonate Platform

The Adriatic Carbonate Platform as an independent palaeogeographic entity was formed by separation from neighbouring carbonate platforms during the Toarcian, the youngest part of the Early Jurassic (c. 180 Ma). At that time, the interaction of extensional tectonics and the Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event (SABATINO et al., 2013) deepened the central part of the Adriatic Microplate, creating the Adriatic Basin, while three carbonate platforms were established in the surrounding shallower areas – the AdCP as part of the External Dinarides, and the Apenninic and Apulian Carbonate Platforms, which are now an integral part of the Apennines.

During the Middle Jurassic, a thick sequence of carbonates was deposited in predominantly calm, lagoonal conditions, while in the Late Jurassic, in the Kimmeridgian (c. 155 Ma), significant palaeogeographic differentiation was recorded due to the ob-

gađaja značajan je dio JKP izdignut (područje današnje Istre, Biokova i Crne Gore), dio je produbljen (Lemeško korito, dio Gorskog kotara i sjeveroistočni rub JKP), a u preostalom dijelu je nastavljena plitkomorska sedimentacija. Značajan dio sjeveroistočnog ruba Jadranske mikroploče u to je vrijeme predstavljao kopno, što je pored spomenutih izdignutih područja na JKP moglo predstavljati još jedan paleogeografski most za migraciju kopnenih životinja.

Tijekom najmlađeg dijela jure i krede na cijelom području JKP prevladavala je plitkomorska karbonatna sedimentacija, ali je povremenim međudjelovanjem više ili manje intenzivne kompresijske tektonike uzrokovane približavanjem Jadranske mikroploče i Euroazijske ploče i globalnih eustatskih promjena povremeno dolazilo do kraćih ili duljih razdoblja oplićavanja i izronjavanja, odnosno preplavljivanja i produbljavanja pojedinih dijelova platforme. Facijesna diferencijacija je bila sve intenzivnija u mlađoj kredi i početkom paleogena, kad je zbog kolizije Jadranske mikroploče i Euroazijske ploče došlo do postupnog izdizanja različitih dijelova platforme i na prijelazu krede i paleogena konačnog izdizanja i prestanka postojanja JKP kao paleogeografskog entiteta, a u mlađem paleogenu i konačnog izdizanja Dinarida.

Značenje dinosaura za razmatranje paleogeografije Jadranske karbonatne platforme

Dokazi o postojanju dinosaura na JKP do sada su zabilježeni u stijenama stratigrafskog raspona od gornjega titona (MEZGA i sur., 2007) do mastrihta (od 148 do 66 mil. god.) u brojnim stratigrafskim razinama. Ta činjenica svjedoči o dugotrajnom ispunjavanju uvjeta pogodnih za njihov život – više ili manje stalnom postojanju dovoljno prostranih i međusobno povezanih kopnenih područja, kao i o klimatskim uvjetima koji su omogućavali dostupnost dovoljne količine biljnog materijala i slatke vode.

Također je važna činjenica da brojne razine s tragovima životne aktivnosti različitih skupina dinosaura ukazuju na više ili manje kontinuiranu vezu s kontinentalnim područjima Gondwane tijekom jure i starije krede i Euroazije tijekom mlađe krede. Pritom je DALLA VECCHIA (2001) na temelju pojave tragova manjih dinosaura tijekom alba i cenomana pretpostavio da je JKP u tom razdoblju moguće bila i povremeno paleogeografski izolirana od većih kontinentalnih područja. Dokazi prikupljeni brojnim istraživanjima dinosaura vrlo se dobro uklapaju u supraregionalne paleogeografske interpretacije (SCOTese, 2012).

Velika većina tragova i kostiju dinosaura otkrivena je u Istri (uz rijetke pojave u Dalmaciji – MEZGA i dr., 2006), čemu pored dugotrajno prisutnog kopna (MATIČEC i dr., 2006) pridonose i vrlo brojni dobro otvoreni prostrani izdanci kakvi su vrlo rijetki u drugim područjima JKP. Uzevši u obzir i realno vrlo mali potencijal očuvanja tragova (zbog značajki primarnih sedimenata tijekom taloženja, naknadne tektonske poremećenosti,

duction of ophiolites along the northern edge of the Adriatic Microplate. During this event, a significant part of the AdCP was uplifted (the area of present-day Istria, Biokovo and Montenegro), part was deepened (the Lemeš Trough, part of Gorski Kotar and the NE edge of the AdCP), while shallow-marine deposition continued in the remaining part. A significant part of the NE edge of the Adriatic Microplate at that time was land, which, in addition to the aforementioned uplifted areas of the AdCP, could have represented another palaeogeographic bridge for the migration of terrestrial animals.

During the latest Jurassic and Cretaceous, shallow-marine carbonate deposition prevailed in the entire area of the AdCP, but the occasional interaction of more or less intense compressional tectonics due to the convergence of the Adriatic Microplate and the Eurasian Plate and global eustatic changes occasionally led to shorter or longer periods of shallowing and emergence. Facies differentiation was increasingly intense in the Late Cretaceous and Early Paleogene, when the beginning of the collision of the Adriatic Microplate and the Eurasian Plate led to the gradual uplift of various parts of the platform, and at the Cretaceous–Paleogene transition, the final uplift and cessation of the AdCP as a paleogeographic entity, followed by the orogenesis of the Dinarides in the Middle–Late Eocene and partly Oligocene.

The importance of dinosaurs for considering the palaeogeography of the Adriatic Carbonate Platform

Evidence of the existence of dinosaurs on the AdCP has so far been recorded in rocks of the stratigraphic range from the Upper Tithonian (MEZGA et al., 2007) to the Maastrichtian (c. 148 to 66 Ma) in many stratigraphic levels. This fact testifies to the long-term existence of conditions suitable for their life – the more or less constant existence of sufficiently large and interconnected land areas, as well as climatic conditions enabling sufficient amounts of plant material and fresh water. Another important fact is that numerous levels with traces of life activity of different groups of dinosaurs indicate a more or less continuous connection with the continental areas of Gondwana during the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous and Eurasia during the Late Cretaceous. DALLA VECCHIA (2001) assumed, based on the appearance of traces of smaller dinosaurs during the Albion and Cenomanian, that the AdCP may have been temporarily palaeogeographically isolated from larger continental areas during that period. The evidence collected from numerous studies fits very well with supraregional palaeogeographic interpretations (SCOTese, 2012).

The vast majority of dinosaur tracks and bones were discovered in Istria (with rare occurrences in Dalmatia – MEZGA et al., 2006), which, in addition to the long-term presence of land in Istria (MATIČEC et al., 2006), is also contributed by the very numerous and well-opened spacious outcrops that are very rare in other areas of the AdCP. Taking into account the very low poten-

male površine i izrazite prekrivenosti izdanaka i vrlo brzog recentnog kemijskog trošenja) može se zaključiti da je prisutnost dinosaura bila vjerojatno značajno veća nego što se obično misli.

Zaključak

Postojanje brojnih nalaza tragova života različitih dinosaura kroz 80 milijuna godina značajno je promijenilo nekadašnje pretpostavke o Jadranskoj karbonatnoj platformi kao drevnom ekvivalentu današnje izolirane karbonatne platforme Bahama. Dokazi prikupljeni brojnim paleontološkim istraživanjima vrlo dobro se uklapaju i dopunjuju suvremene paleogeografske interpretacije. Na taj je način stogodišnje istraživanje dinosaura u Hrvatskoj značajno pridonijelo razumijevanju još jednog vrlo kompleksnog i dugo neriješenog geološkog problema.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Plenarno predavanje

Tema: Paleogeografija

tial for preserving tracks (due to the characteristics of primary soft sediments during deposition, subsequent tectonic disturbance, small outcrops area often covered by dense vegetation and extremely rapid recent chemical weathering), it can be concluded that the presence of dinosaurs was actually significantly greater than is usually thought.

Conclusion

The existence of numerous life traces of different dinosaurs for more than 80 million years has significantly changed the former assumptions about the Adriatic Carbonate Platform as the ancient equivalent of today’s isolated carbonate platform of the Bahamas. The evidence collected by numerous palaeontologic investigations fits very well and complements modern palaeogeographical interpretations. In this way, hundred years of dinosaur research in Croatia contributed significantly to the understanding of another very complex and long-unsolved geological problem.

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Presentation Type: Plenary Lecture

Topic: Paleogeography

OSNOVNA GEOLOŠKA KARTA
NACIONALNI PARK BRIJUNI
M 1:25 000

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Ključne riječi: OGK NP Brijuni, vapnenci, barem, apt, alb



Geološko kartiranje je interpretativan i multidisciplinarnan znanstveno-stručni proces temeljen na geološkim istraživanjima u svrhu izrade osnovne geološke karte. Neposredna primjena geoloških karata vidljiva je u istraživanjima i eksploataciji vode, mineralnih i energetske resursa. Osnovna geološka karta predstavlja temeljnu podlogu za procjenu rizika od onečišćenja, potresa i klizišta. U današnje vrijeme sve češće se koristi za potrebe upravljanja i planiranja prostora te postojećih prirodnih resursa (edukacija, geoturizam, edukativne zone, staze i točke, odlagališta otpada i sl.). Geološki podaci implementirani u digitalne prostorne sustave omogućavaju brže i jednostavnije upravljanje i planiranje. Zadnja sustavna geološka istraživanja područja Nacionalnog parka Brijuni (NPB) datiraju još iz 60-tih godina prošloga stoljeća. Time se nametnula opravdana potreba za suvremenom osnovnom geološkom kartom baziranom na litostratigrafskom principu s popratnim digitalnim sadržajem (sl. 23). Fokus aktivnosti u početnim fazama izrade karte tijekom 2024. godine bio je na pregledu dosadašnjih istraživanja te terenskom utvrđivanju kriterija geološkog kartiranja. Kroz snimanje i razradu geoloških stupova pristupilo se površinskom kartiranju s gustoćom točaka primjereno zadanom mjerilu. Svi prikupljeni podaci u razdoblju od travnja 2024. do travnja 2025. su objedinjeni u vidu finalne centralne geološke karte. U završnim fazama fokus je bio na digitalizaciji podataka, formiranju kompilacijskog geološkog stupa, izradi geoloških profila te prijenosu podataka u GIS okruženje. Karbonatna podloga NPB predstavlja sjeverozapadni dio nekadašnje mezozojske Jadranske karbonatne platforme. U granicama NPB izdvojeno je ukupno osam litostratigrafskih jedinica, od toga tri kredne formacije i pet diskonformitetima ograničenih i genetskih kvartarnih. Od otočića Sv. Marko na samom sjeverozapadu NPB do otoka Kotež na jugoistoku pravocrtna udaljenost je gotovo 8 km, no s obzirom na undulirane, blago borane strukture i vrlo blagi kut nagiba slojeva ukupna debljina svih kartiranih jedinica, odnosno naslaga prisutnih u NPB iznosi tek oko 265 m. Definirane formacije su: Mali Brijun (100 m slijeda s kontinuiranim izmjenama debljih paketa cijanobakterijsko-algalnih

BASIC GEOLOGICAL MAP
NATIONAL PARK BRIJUNI
M 1:25,000

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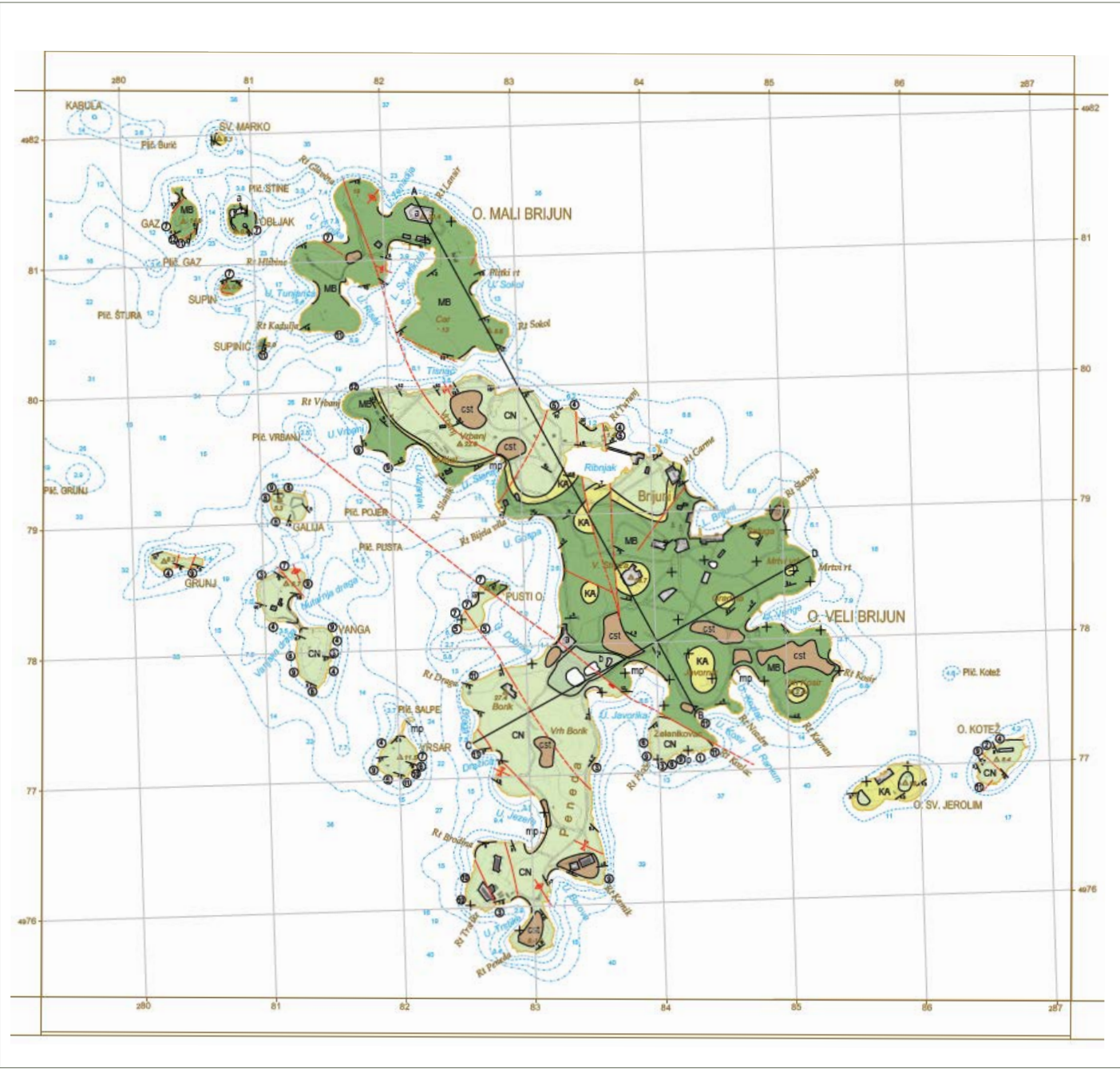
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Keywords: BGM NP Brijuni, limestones, Barremian, Aptian, Albanian



Geological mapping is an interpretative and multidisciplinary scientific-professional process based on geological research, aimed at creating a basic geological map. The immediate application of geological maps is evident in the exploration and exploitation of water, mineral, and energy resources. The basic geological map serves as a foundational basis for assessing risks related to pollution, earthquakes, and landslides. Nowadays, it is increasingly used for spatial management and planning, as well as for existing natural resources (education, geotourism, educational zones, trails and points, waste disposal sites, etc.). Geological data implemented in digital spatial systems enable faster and easier management and planning. The most recent systematic geological research in the Brijuni National Park (BNP) dates back to the 1960s. This has led to the justified need for a modern basic geological map based on the lithostratigraphic principle, accompanied by digital content (Fig. 23). The focus of activities in the initial stages of mapping during 2024 was on reviewing previous research and field verification of geological mapping criteria. Surface mapping was carried out with an appropriate point density, suitable for the specified scale, through the recording and development of geological sections. All collected data from April 2024 to April 2025 were compiled into a final central geological map. In the final stages, the focus was on data digitalisation, forming a compilation geological section, creating geological profiles, and transferring data to a GIS environment. The carbonate foundation of the BNP represents the north-western part of the former Mesozoic Adriatic Carbonate Platform. Within the boundaries of the BNP, a total of eight lithostratigraphic units were identified, three of which are Cretaceous formations and five are genetically Quaternary units, limited by unconformities. From the islet of St. Marko in the far northwest of the BNP to the island of Kotež in the southeast, the straight-line distance is almost 8 km. However, due to the undulating, gently folded structures and the very gentle dip angle of the layers, the total thickness of all mapped units, or deposits present in the BNP, is only about 265 m. The defined formations are: Mali Brijun (100 m sequence with con-



Slika 23. Osnovna geološka karta Nacionalni park Brijuni M 1:25 000

Figure 23. Basic Geological Map National Park Brijuni M 1:25,000

laminata te muljevitih i sitnozrnastih vapnenaca pločastog habitusa uz pojavu emerzijskih breča, mlađi barem), Kanfanar (15 m slijeda svijetlosmeđih do žućkastih onkoidnih vapnenaca s rijetkim krupnim presjecima školjkaša, mikritnom osnovom te debeloslojevitim do masivnim habitusom, stariji apt) i Crna (150 m slijeda izmjene krupnozrnastih, gusto pakiranih i dobro sortiranih grejnstona s brojnim presjecima miliolida, cijanobakterijsko-algalnih laminata te pločastih zrnastih vapnenaca s proslojcima madstona i emerzijskih breča, mlađi alb). Kvarterne jedinice su smeđe tlo na karbonatu, barski i antropogeni sedimenti, morske plaže te koštane breče stratigrafskog ras-

tinuous alternation of thicker packages of cyanobacterial-algal laminates, micritic and fine-grained limestones with a platy habitus, and the occurrence of emersion horizons breccias, younger Barremian), Kanfanar (15 m sequence of light brown to yellow oncolid limestones with rare large cross-sections of shells, micritic matrix, and thick-bedded to massive habitus, older Aptian), and Crna (150 m sequence of coarse-grained, densely packed, and well-sorted grainstones with numerous cross-sections of miliolids, cyanobacterial-algal laminates, and platy granular limestones with layers of mudstone and emersion horizons breccias, younger Albanian). Quaternary units include brown soil

pona pleistocen–holocen. Recentni strukturni sklop NPB rezultat je tektogeneze od razdoblja krede do danas i predstavlja jugoistočno krilo zapadnoistarske antiklinale. S obzirom da se istraživano područje nalazi u predgorju, razmjerno daleko od ruba Vanjskih Dinarida, ono nije pretrpjelo značajnije tektonske promjene tijekom samog izdizanja Dinaridskog orogena. Posljedica takve blage kompresijske tektonike očituje se vrlo blagim boranjem.

Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje i poster
Tema: OGK NP Brijuni M 1:25 000

on carbonate, marsh and anthropogenic sediments, marine beaches, and bone breccias of Pleistocene-Holocene stratigraphic range. The recent structural framework of the BNP is a result of tectogenesis from the Cretaceous period to the present and represents the southeastern wing of the Western Istrian Anticline. Since the area under study is relatively far from the edge of the External Dinarides, it has not undergone significant tectonic changes during the actual uplift of the Dinaridic orogen. The result of such mild compressive tectonics is evident in the very gentle folding.

Type of presentation: Invited Lecture and Poster
Topic: BGM NP Brijuni M 1:25,000

PRIRODNI PROCESI EROZIJE NA KARBONATNIM OBALAMA

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Ključne riječi: karbonatne stijene, bioerozija, otapanje, geomorfologija, obalni procesi



Stjenovite obale su prirodno sklone eroziji, a karbonatne obale su jedan njihov litološki podtip. Uslijed sklonosti kemijskoj i mehaničkoj eroziji, karbonatne obale obično sadrže oblike koji se neće naći u karbonatnim stijenama na kopnu, kao ni na stjenovitim obalama nekarbonatne litologije. Većina karbonatnih obala u svijetu danas su eogenetske obale koje prevladavaju u tropima i suptropima. Hrvatska obala je dijagenetski zrela stjenovita i strma karbonatna obala s preko 90% duljine obale razvijene u karbonatnim stijenama (PIKELJ & JURAČIĆ, 2013). Kao takva koja pruža poligon za istraživanje niza obalnih oblika nastalih pod utjecajem mora na topivoj karbonatnoj podlozi. Većina tih oblika je posljedica mehaničke marinske i krške disolucijske erozije, kao i recentnog taloženja. Vrijedne fosiliferne stijene koje se nalaze u zoni obale uslijed navedenih procesa mogu vrlo lako postati predmet prirodne obalne erozije i akumulacije.

Disolucijska erozija karbonatnih stijena i oblikovanje krškog reljefa je povezano s otapanjem karbonatnih minerala (najčešće se spominje CaCO₃). Morska voda je u prosjeku lužnata te zasićena na CaCO₃, pa se ne očekuje da će karbonatne stijene biti otopljene u kontaktu s morskom vodom. Ipak, u obalnom prostoru i u kontaktu s morem karbonatne stijene mogu biti mehanički erodirane na druge načine, primjerice mehaničkom erozijom valovima, trošenjem djelovanjem soli, opetovanim vlaženjem i sušenjem, abrazijom sedimentom u suspenziji valova te drugim procesima koji nisu karakteristični za kopnene karbonatne stijene.

Kemijska erozija karbonatnih stijena javit će se u slučaju kad se slatka voda lokalno pomiješa s morskom vodom. To miješanje može biti pod morem i na površini. Lokalno, kemijska erozija klasičnim otapanjem se može pojaviti lokalno i na onim mjestima na kojima djelovanje organizama morsku vodu čine kiselijom. Osim kemijske erozije u morskom okolišu uz karbonatnu obalu može doći i do kemijske precipitacije Ca CO₃. Njome primjerice mogu nastati ooliti, karbonatni mulj ili posebna vrsta stijena.

NATURAL EROSIONAL PROCESSES ON CARBONATE COASTS

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Keywords: carbonate rocks, bioerosion, dissolution, geomorphology, coastal processes



Rocky coasts are naturally prone to erosion, and carbonate coasts are one of their lithological subtypes. Due to their susceptibility to chemical and mechanical erosion, carbonate coasts usually contain features that will not be found in carbonate rocks on land, nor on rocky coasts of non-carbonate lithology. Most carbonate coasts in the world today are eogenetic coasts that predominate in the tropics and subtropics. The Croatian coast is a diagenetically mature rocky and steep carbonate coast with over 90% of the coast length developed in carbonate rocks (PIKELJ & JURAČIĆ, 2013). As such, it provides a polygon for the study of a number of coastal forms shaped and affected by the sea on soluble carbonate bedrock. Most of these forms are the result of mechanical marine and karst dissolution erosion, as well as recent deposition. Valuable fossiliferous rocks found in the coastal zone due to the above processes can very easily become the subject of natural coastal erosion and accumulation.

Dissolutional erosion of carbonate rocks and the formation of karst relief is associated with the dissolution of carbonate minerals (mostly CaCO₃). Seawater is on average alkaline and saturated with CaCO₃, so carbonate rocks are not expected to be dissolved in contact with seawater. However, in coastal areas and in contact with the sea, carbonate rocks can be mechanically eroded in other ways, such as mechanical erosion by waves, salt weathering, repeated wetting and drying, abrasion by sediment in wave suspension, and other influences that are not characteristic of terrestrial carbonate rocks.

Chemical erosion of carbonate rocks will occur when fresh water is locally mixed with seawater. This mixing can be under the sea and on the surface. Locally, chemical erosion by classical dissolution can occur locally and, in those places, where the action of organisms makes seawater more acidic. In addition to chemical erosion in the marine environment along the carbonate coast, chemical precipitation of CaCO₃ can also occur. For example, it can form oolites, carbonate mud or a special type of rock.

Fizička (mehanička) razaranja se odnose na mlat valova, abrazi-ju pomoću suspendirane tvari u morskoj vodi, hidraulički efekt valova i pneumatski rad morske vode u pukotinama. Ukupna čvrstoća karbonatnih stijena se može smanjiti ukoliko opeto-vano vlaženje i sušenje glinovitih dijelova karbonatnih stijena bude potrošeno, a u klimatski hladnijim područjima može doći do klasičnog razaranja smrzavanjem.

Biološki utjecaj na karbonatne stijene u morskom okolišu se odnosi na sveukupni utjecaj organizama, pri čemu je on u mor-skom okolišu znatno jači i drugačiji u odnosu na kopnene krške prostore. U svim morskim karbonatnim okolišima evidentna je bioerozija – proces razaranja i uklanjanja stijene iz različitih razloga i na različite načine. Osim bioerozije prisutno je i bio-loško taloženje koje može za rezultat imati biogeni karbonatni sediment, može se očitovati u biocementaciji nevezanog sedi-menta, te se može pojaviti i kao bioprotekcija kod koje orga-nizmi obraštajem sprječavaju daljnju eroziju osnovne stijene. Koji od navedenih procesa će se pojaviti ovisi o brojnim čim-benicima, a neki od njih su litološke karakteristike, fizička i mehanička svojstva stijena, njihova strukturna kontinuiranost, dubina, meteorološki i marinski uvjeti, tektonika, podzemna voda, hidrološke karakteristike područja, zajednica organiza-ma, klimatski uvjeti, lokalne karakteristike morske vode itd. U najvećem broju karbonatnih obala se na malom prostoru i u isto vrijeme mogu pojaviti sve tri skupine procesa.

Cilj ovog rada je dati pregled prirodnih procesa i njima nastalih oblika koji se pojavljuju na karbonatnim obalama u dodiru s morem, pri čemu je naglasak na onim oblicima koji se mogu javiti i na hrvatskoj obali.

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Reference:

PIKELJ, K., JURAČIĆ, M. (2013): Eastern Adriatic Coast (EAC): Geomorpho-logy and Coastal Vulnerability of a Karstic Coast. Journal of Coastal Resear-ch 29/4, 944-957.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje

Tema: Erozija obala

Physical (mechanical) destruction refers to the impact of waves, abrasion by suspended matter in seawater, the hydraulic effect of waves, and the pneumatic work of seawater in cracks. The overall strength of carbonate rocks can be reduced if repeated wetting and drying of the clayey parts of carbonate rocks leads to their removal, and in colder climates, classical destruction by freezing can occur.

The biological impact on carbonate rocks in the marine envi-ronment refers to the overall impact of organisms, which is significantly different and stronger in the marine environment compared to terrestrial karst areas. Bioerosion is evident in all marine carbonate environments - the process of destruction and removal of rock for various reasons and in various ways. In addition to bioerosion, biological deposition is also present, which can result in biogenic carbonate sediment accumulation, biocementation of other loose sediment, and can also occur as bioprotection where organisms prevent further erosion of the underlying rock by fouling.

Which of the above processes will occur depends on numerous factors, some of which are lithological characteristics, physical and mechanical properties of the rocks, their structural conti-nuity, depth, meteorological and marine conditions, tectonics, groundwater, hydrological characteristics of the area, commu-nity of organisms, climatic conditions, local characteristics of seawater, etc. In most carbonate coasts, all three groups of pro-cesses can occur simultaneously in a small area.

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of natural pro-cesses and the resulting forms that appear on carbonate coasts in contact with the sea, with an emphasis on those forms that can also occur on the Croatian coast.

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Type of presentation: Invited presentation

Topic: Coastline erosion

SKENIRANI TRAGOVI DINOSAURA U UVALI ŽUKOVA NA OTOKU HVARU

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Ključne riječi: dinosauri, otok Hvar, fosilne stope, 3D model, skeniranje



U ljeto 2024. godine djelatnici Javne ustanove „More i krš“ pro-veli su terensko snimanje i digitalnu dokumentaciju fosilnih stopa dinosaure u uvali Žukova na otoku Hvaru. Lokalitet se nalazi uz morsku obalu i sastoji se od više otisaka sačuvanih u nagnutim slojevima vapnenca. Otkriće predstavlja vrijedan paleontološki nalaz koji potvrđuje prisutnost dinosaure na po-dručju današnjeg Jadrana tijekom mezozoika.

Za potrebe zaštite i znanstvene analize korištena je tehnologija skeniranja kojom su izrađeni precizni 3D modeli otisaka. Time je omogućena detaljna analiza morfologije stopa, a istovreme-no je stvoren temelj za buduće edukativne i izložbene aktivno-sti, uključujući izradu replika.

Digitalizacijom lokaliteta osigurano je dugoročno očuvanje in-formacija o ovom jedinstvenom nalazištu, osobito s obzirom na ugrozu koju predstavljaju prirodni erozijski procesi i utjecaj mora.

Ova aktivnost dio je šireg napora usmjerenog na očuvanje i po-pularizaciju geobaštine otoka Hvara i šire regije Dalmacije.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Predavanje

Tema: Skenirane stope dinosaure u uvali Žukova na otoku Hvaru

SCANNED DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS IN ŽUKOVA BAY ON THE ISLAND OF HVAR

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Keywords: dinosaurs, Hvar Island, fossil footprints, 3D model, scanning



In the summer of 2024, staff of the Public Institution „Sea and Karst“ conducted field recording and digital documentation of dinosaur fossil footprints in Žukova Bay on Hvar Island. The site is located along the seashore and consists of several foot-prints preserved in inclined limestone layers. The discovery represents a valuable paleontological find that confirms the presence of dinosaurs in the area of today’s Adriatic during the Mesozoic.

For the purposes of protection and scientific analysis, scan-ning technology was used to produce precise 3D models of the footprints. This enabled detailed morphological analysis of the tracks while also providing a foundation for future educational and exhibition activities, including the production of replicas. By digitizing the site, long-term preservation of information about this unique locality has been ensured, especially consid-ering the threats posed by natural erosion processes and the impact of the sea.

This activity is part of a broader effort aimed at the preservation and promotion of the geohertiage of Hvar Island and the wider Dalmatian region.

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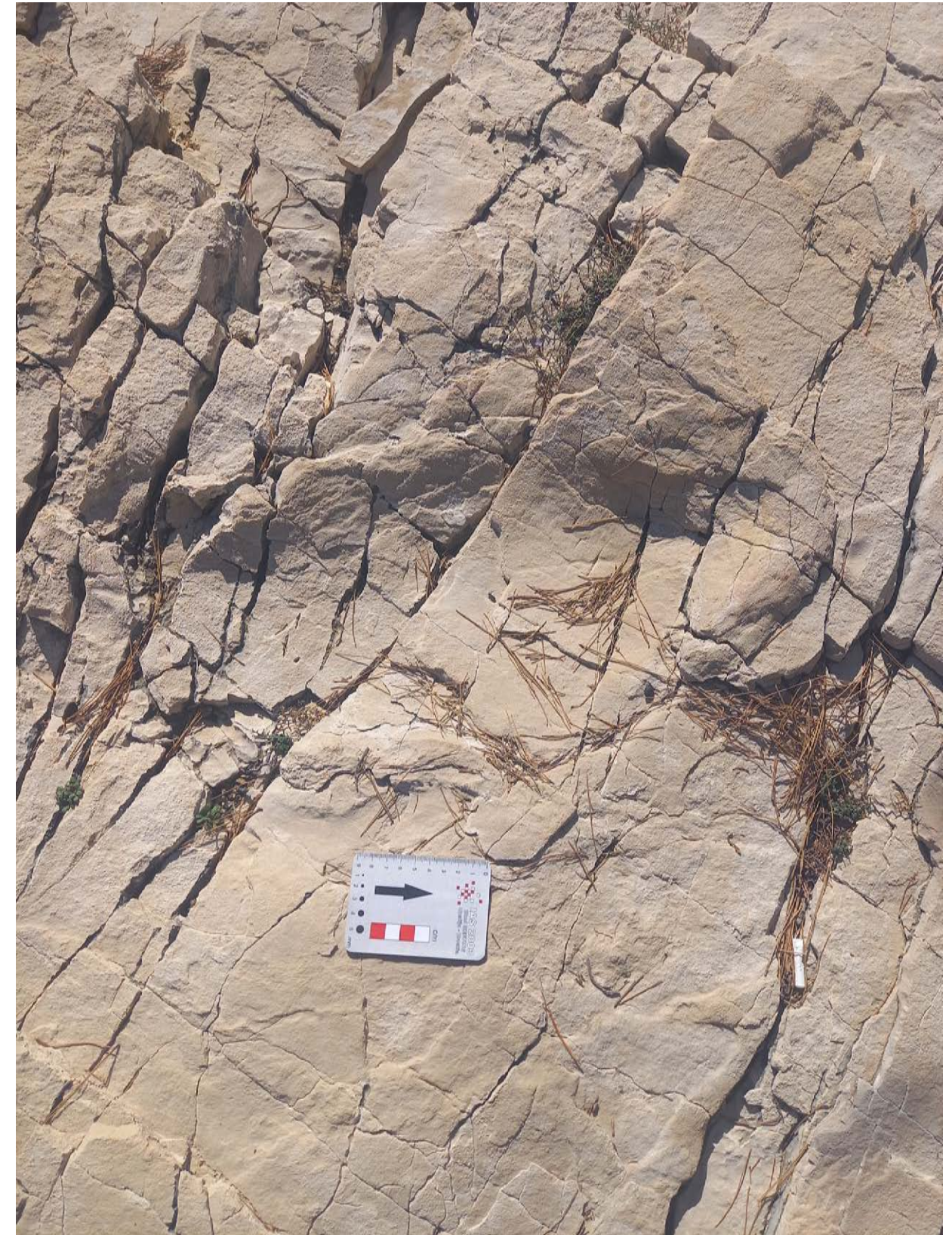
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MEZGA, A. (2009): Ihnocoenoze dinosaure na Jadransko-dinaridskoj karbon-atnoj platformi, doktorska dizertacija, Zagreb.

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Type of presentation: Invited Lecture

Topic: Scanned dinosaur footprints in Žukova Bay on the island of Hvar



Slika 24: Tragovi sauropodnih dinosaura u uvali Žukova na otoku Hvaru, najveći takvi fosilni tragovi u Hrvatskoj, gornji turon/donji konijak, mlada kreda, starosti oko 90 milijuna godina; autor fotografije: Irina Žeger Pleše

Figure 24: Tracks of sauropod dinosaurs in Žukova Cove on the island of Hvar, the largest fossil tracks of this kind in Croatia; Upper Turonian/Lower Coniacian, Late Cretaceous, approximately 90 million years old; photo by Irina Žeger Pleše

3D DOKUMENTACIJA
TRAGOVA DINOSAURA
PRIMJENOM SUVREMENIH
GEOPROSTORNIH
TEHNOLOGIJA

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Ključne riječi: geoprostorne tehnologije, paleontološka baština, 3D dokumentacija, digitalni modeli, zaštita



Tragovi dinosaura predstavljaju vrijedan segment geobaštine koji pruža jedinstven uvid u ponašanje, lokomotiju i morfoloiju autopoda dinosaura (Díaz-Martínez i sur., 2024). Međutim, tragovi očuvani u vapnencima podložni su progresivnoj degradaciji uslijed prirodnih (klimatske promjene, korozija, porast razine mora) i antropogenih (urbanizacija, vandalizam) procesa i pritiska (Rea i sur., 2023). Na području Hrvatske do danas je zabilježeno desetak značajnih nalazišta tragova dinosaura, većinom na prostoru Istarskog poluotoka (Lužar-Oberiter i sur., 2017). Budući da se brojna nalazišta nalaze u blizini urbanih i obalnih zona, njihova zaštita postaje prioritet. Unatoč njihovoj znanstvenoj i edukativnoj vrijednosti, tragovi dinosaura u Hrvatskoj još uvijek nisu dovoljno istraženi, posebice u pogledu sustavne inventarizacije i 3D dokumentacije.

U ovom radu istražuju se mogućnosti primjene suvremenih geoprostornih tehnologija u svrhu 3D dokumentacije i očuvanja tragova dinosaura. Analizirani su potencijali i ograničenja različitih geoprostornih tehnologija, uključujući UAV fotogrametriju, mobilno i terestričko LiDAR snimanje te ručno 3D skeniranje, s ciljem izrade digitalnih modela različitih razina detaljnosti. Poseban naglasak stavljen je na primjenu ručnog 3D skenera *Artec Eva* koji je primijenjen za 3D dokumentaciju tragova dinosaura unutar dva odabrana lokaliteta u Istarskoj županiji. Prvi lokalitet nalazi se unutar aktivnog kamenoloma, gdje su zabilježeni tragovi sauropoda. Drugi lokalitet smješten je unutar turističkog naselja te sadrži tragove teropoda. Skenirani tragovi dinosaura obrađeni su u Artec Studio 17 softveru, a izrađeni visokorezolucijski digitalni modeli iskorišteni su za 3D ispis fizičkih replika pomoću pisača *Formlabs Form 3+*.

3D DOCUMENTATION OF
DINOSAUR TRACKS USING
ADVANCED GEOSPATIAL
TECHNOLOGIES

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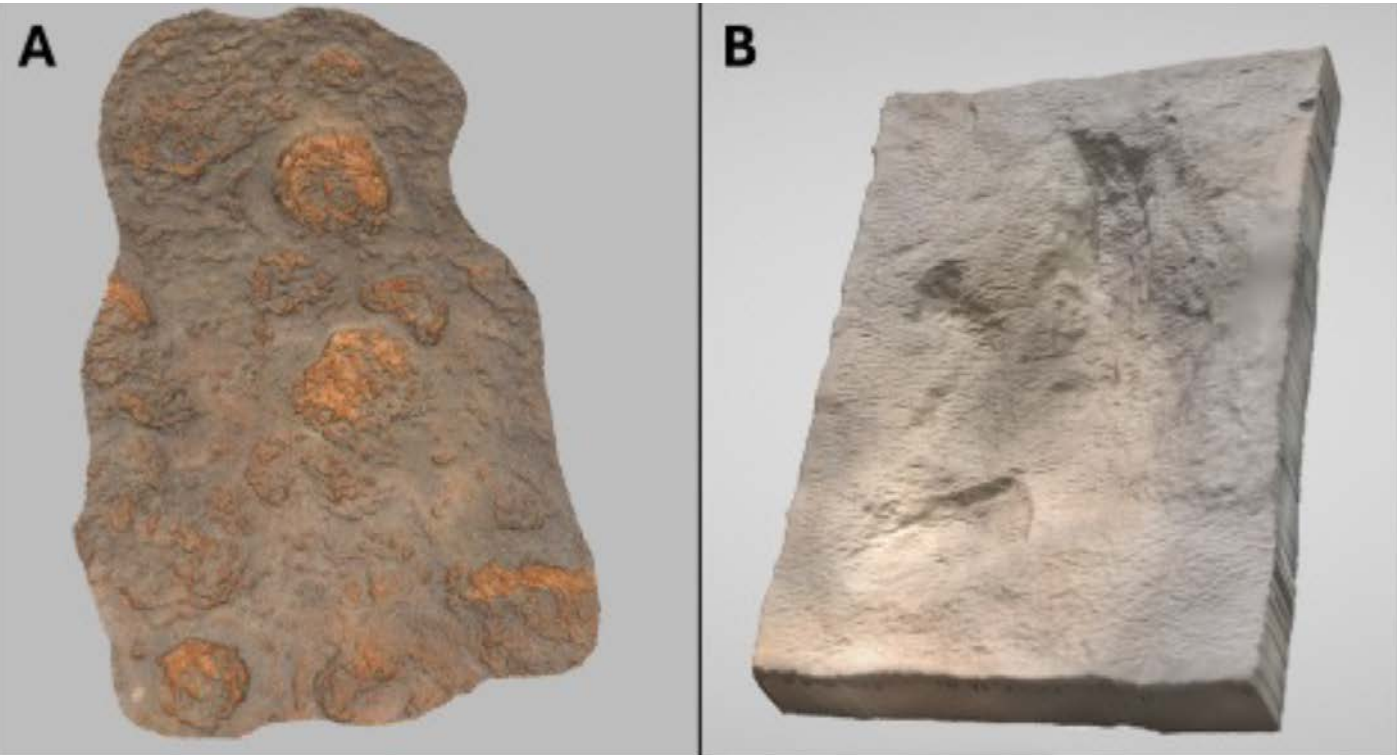
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Keywords: geospatial technologies, paleontological heritage, 3D documentation, digital models, conservation



Dinosaur tracks represent a valuable component of geodiversity, offering unique insights into the behavior, locomotion, and autopod morphology of dinosaurs (Díaz-Martínez et al., 2024). However, tracks preserved in limestone are subject to progressive degradation due to natural factors (climate change, corrosion, sea level rise) and anthropogenic pressures (urbanization, vandalism) (Rea et al., 2023). In Croatia, more than twenty significant dinosaur tracksites have been recorded to date, most of which are located on the Istrian Peninsula (Lužar-Oberiter et al., 2017). Since many of these sites are situated near urban and coastal areas, their protection has become a priority. Despite their scientific and educational value, dinosaur tracks in Croatia remain insufficiently studied, particularly in terms of systematic inventory and 3D documentation.

This study explores the potential application of modern geospatial technologies for the 3D documentation and preservation of dinosaur tracks. The advantages and limitations of various geospatial methods were analyzed, including UAV photogrammetry, mobile and terrestrial LiDAR scanning, and handheld 3D scanning, with the goal of producing digital models at varying levels of detail. Special emphasis was placed on the use of the Artec Eva handheld 3D scanner for documenting dinosaur tracks at two selected locations in Istria County. The first site is located within an active dolomite quarry, where sauropod tracks were recorded. The second site is situated within a tourist resort and contains theropod tracks. The scanned tracks were processed in Artec Studio 17, and the resulting high-resolution digital models were used to produce physical replicas using a Formlabs Form 3+ 3D printer.



Slika 25: 3D modeli tragova sauropoda (lijevo) i teropoda (desno) izrađeni korištenjem Artec Eva 3D ručnog skenera

Izrađeni submilimetarski 3D modeli pokazuju da ručni 3D skeneri omogućuju preciznu, učinkovitu i ponovljivu dokumentaciju tragova dinosaura, što znatno doprinosi očuvanju i interpretaciji paleontološke baštine (Slika 25.). Osim znanstvene vrijednosti, ovakvi digitalni modeli omogućuju i izradu edukativnih i promotivnih sadržaja, kao i razvoj fizičkih modela za muzejske i izložbene svrhe. Na temelju rezultata istraživanja, predložene su smjernice za prioritetnu inventarizaciju i 3D dokumentaciju tragova dinosaura na nacionalnoj razini, temeljene na kriterijima znanstvene važnosti i stupnja ugroženosti lokaliteta.

Provedeno istraživanje potvrđuje da integracija naprednih geoprostornih tehnologija predstavlja ključan alat za unaprjeđenje zaštite i održivog upravljanja paleontološkom baštinom u Hrvatskoj. Osim što omogućuju izradu trajne digitalne arhive ugroženih tragova dinosaura, geoprostorne tehnologije otvaraju mogućnosti za razvoj digitalnih interpretacijskih centara, povezivanje s obrazovnim programima te suradnju s javnim institucijama u cilju popularizacije i očuvanja geobaštine.

Figure 25: 3D models of sauropod (left) and theropod (right) tracks created using the Artec Eva handheld 3D scanner

The sub-millimeter 3D models generated at the two sites demonstrate that handheld 3D scanners enable precise, efficient, and repeatable documentation of dinosaur tracks, significantly contributing to the preservation and interpretation of paleontological heritage (Figure 25). Beyond their scientific value, these digital models support the creation of educational and promotional materials, as well as the production of physical models for museum and exhibition purposes. Based on the research findings, guidelines were proposed for the prioritized national inventory and 3D documentation of dinosaur tracks, using criteria of scientific importance and site vulnerability.

The conducted research confirms that the integration of advanced geospatial technologies is a key tool for enhancing the protection and sustainable management of paleontological heritage in Croatia. In addition to enabling the creation of a permanent digital archive of endangered dinosaur tracks, these technologies open up opportunities for the development of digital interpretation centers, integration into educational programs, and collaboration with public institutions to promote and safeguard geodiversity.

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Lužar-Oberiter, B., Kordić, B., & Mezga, A. (2017). Digital modelling of the Late Albian Solaris dinosaur tracksite (Istria, Croatia). *Palaios*, 32(12), 739-749.

Rea, C., DI FAZIO, M., Romano, M., Petti, F. A. B. I. O., Ciccola, A., Benedetti, F., ... & Medeghini, L. (2023). Protection of dinosaur footprints in carbonate deposits: the case of Sezze (Latium, central Italy) ichnosite. In *Abstract book: The Geoscience paradigm: Resources, Risks and future perspectives* (pp. 178-178).

Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje
Tema: 3D dokumentacija fosilnih tragova dinosaura

References:

Díaz-Martínez, I., Citton, P., & Castanera, D. (2024). What do their footprints tell us? Many questions and some answers about the life of non-avian dinosaurs. *Journal of Iberian Geology*, 50(1), 5-26.

Lužar-Oberiter, B., Kordić, B., & Mezga, A. (2017). Digital modelling of the Late Albian Solaris dinosaur tracksite (Istria, Croatia). *Palaios*, 32(12), 739-749.

Rea, C., DI FAZIO, M., Romano, M., Petti, F. A. B. I. O., Ciccola, A., Benedetti, F., ... & Medeghini, L. (2023). Protection of dinosaur footprints in carbonate deposits: the case of Sezze (Latium, central Italy) ichnosite. In *Abstract book: The Geoscience paradigm: Resources, Risks and future perspectives* (pp. 178-178).

Type of presentation: Invited Lecture
Topic: 3D documentation of fossilized dinosaur footprints

REKONSTRUKCIJA 3D FOSILNIH TRAGOVA DINOSAURA UZ POMOĆ NOVIH TEHNOLOGIJA

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Ključne riječi: Aditivna proizvodnja, 3D rekonstrukcija, inovacije, kulturna baština



3D skeniranje uz uporabu aditivnih tehnologija koristi se kao jedan od alata za detaljno očuvanja i analizu različitih geometrijskih formi. Korištenje novih tehnologija daje jednu novu dimenziju u kvalitativnom smislu, ali isto tako može poslužiti za razumijevanje paleobiologije, kao i interakcije izumrle faune s okolišem. Tradicionalne metode proučavanja ovih fosilnih tragova često uključuju izradu odljeva ili 2D fotografiju, koje mogu biti ograničene u bilježenju složene trodimenzionalne morfologije potrebne za sveobuhvatnu biomehaničku analizu.

U ovom radu dat je fokus na planiranje i realizaciju zaštite otisaka dinosaura lociranih na brijunskom otočju. U prvoj fazi korišten je fotogrametrijski pristup s fotografijama visoke razlučivosti. Dodatno, napravljeno je i ručno mapiranje otiska uz pomoć alata otvorenog koda FreeCAD u verziji 1.1. Tijekom CAD modeliranja korištene su b-spline funkcije višeg reda. Model je zatim prilagođen za 3D ispis te su korištene dvije tehnologije bazirane na polimernom odnosno fotopolimernom ispisu. Za potrebe izrade edukacijskog modela napravljeno je nekoliko verzija ispisa u standardnom formatu.

Literatura/ Literature:

HAALAND, M. M., CZECHOWSKI, M., CARPENTIER, F., LEJAY, M., & VANDERMEULEN, B. (2018): Documenting archaeological thin sections in high-resolution: A comparison of methods and discussion of applications. *Geoarchaeology*, 34(1), 100. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gea.21706>

HIGUERAS, M., CASTILLO, A. I. C., & MONTERO, F. J. C. (2021): Digital 3D modeling using photogrammetry and 3D printing applied to the restoration of a Hispano-Roman architectural ornament. *Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage*, 20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.daach.2021.e00179>

RECONSTRUCTING 3D DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

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Keywords: Additive Manufacturing, 3D Reconstruction, Innovation, Cultural Heritage



3D scanning, in conjunction with additive technologies, serves as a key tool for the detailed preservation and analysis of various geometric forms. The application of these new technologies not only adds a new qualitative dimension to research but also aids in the understanding of paleobiology and the environmental interactions of extinct fauna. Traditional methods for studying these trace fossils often involve casting or 2D photography, which can be limited in capturing the complex three-dimensional morphology necessary for a comprehensive biomechanical analysis.

This paper focuses on the planning and implementation of preservation efforts for dinosaur footprints located on the Brijuni archipelago. The initial phase utilized a photogrammetric approach based on high-resolution photographs. Additionally, the footprint was manually mapped using the open-source software FreeCAD v1.1. Higher-order B-spline functions were used during the CAD modeling process. The model was then optimized for 3D printing, utilizing two technologies: polymer-based and photopolymer-based printing. To create an educational model, several versions were printed in a standard size.

Literatura/ Literature:

HAALAND, M. M., CZECHOWSKI, M., CARPENTIER, F., LEJAY, M., & VANDERMEULEN, B. (2018): Documenting archaeological thin sections in high-resolution: A comparison of methods and discussion of applications. *Geoarchaeology*, 34(1), 100. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gea.21706>

HIGUERAS, M., CASTILLO, A. I. C., & MONTERO, F. J. C. (2021): Digital 3D modeling using photogrammetry and 3D printing applied to the restoration of a Hispano-Roman architectural ornament. *Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage*, 20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.daach.2021.e00179>

REOLID, M., CARDENAL, J., & REOLID, J. (2021): Digital 3D models of theropods for approaching body-mass distribution and volume. Journal of Iberian Geology, 47(4), 599. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41513-021-00172-1>

REU, J. D., PLETS, G., VERHOEVEN, G., SMEDT, P. D., BATS, M., CHERRETTÉ, B. et al. (2012): Towards a three-dimensional cost-effective registration of the archaeological heritage. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 40(2), 1108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2012.08.040>

SPENNEMANN, D. H., & HURFORD, S. (2024): Low-cost mobile 3D scanning of heritage objects to facilitate long-distance research collaboration. *arXiv (Cornell University)*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2412.09749>

Vrsta prezentacije: Predavanje

Tema: Rekonstrukcija 3D fosilnih tragova dinosaura uz pomoć novih tehnologija

REOLID, M., CARDENAL, J., & REOLID, J. (2021): Digital 3D models of theropods for approaching body-mass distribution and volume. Journal of Iberian Geology, 47(4), 599. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41513-021-00172-1>

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SPENNEMANN, D. H., & HURFORD, S. (2024): Low-cost mobile 3D scanning of heritage objects to facilitate long-distance research collaboration. *arXiv (Cornell University)*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2412.09749>

Type of presentation: Invited Lecture

Topic: Reconstructing 3D dinosaur footprints with modern technologies

TRAGOVIMA BRIJUNSKIH DINOSAURA

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Gljučne riječi: Nacionalni park Brijuni, dinosauri, ihnofosili,



Nacionalni park Brijuni proglašen je 1983. godine zbog svoje iznimno vrijedne i bogate prirodne te kulturne baštine od kojih se, između ostalog, izdvajaju i vrlo vrijedni nalazi fosilnih otisaka tragova dinosaura. Geološka i paleontološka istraživanja na brijunskom otočju započela su još prvom polovicom 20. stoljeća te se od 1987. godine kontinuirano nastavljaju sve do danas. Prema BRČIĆ et.al. (2025) na području Nacionalnog parka Brijuni može se izdvojiti 8 litostratigrafskih jedinica, 3 donjokredne jedinice (jedinica Mali Brijun, jedinica Kanfanar i jedinica Crna) i 5 kvartarnih jedinica (crveno-smeđa tla na karbonatu, koštane breče, barski sedimenti, morska žala i antropogene naslage). U dvije od tri kredne jedinice (Mali Brijun i Crna) pojavljuju se slojevi s fosilnim tragovima stopala dinosaura, dominantno u jedinici Crna koja je datirana na gornji alb.

Na području parka do sada je determinirano ukupno osam nalazišta i nekoliko lokacija s potencijalnim tragovima. Broj tragova se još utvrđuje, ali može se reći da ih ima približno tristotinjak. Među njima mogu se razlikovati čak pet različitih tipova tragova – mali do srednje veliki teropodni, veliki teropodni, mali ornitopodni, srednje veliki ornitopodni i srednje veliki do mali sauropodni tragovi.

Najveći broj tragova pripadaju malim teropodnim dinosaurima mesožderima i mogu se naći na tri nalazišta: Ploče (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004, DALLA VECCHIA, 2002), otok Vrsar (MEZGA i sur., 2015) te otok Vanga. Na sva tri nalazišta otisci malih teropodnih dinosaura javljaju se u dva ili više sedimentna sloja. Na nalazištu Vrsar mali teropodni otisci javljaju se u istom sloju zajedno s drugim otiscima biljojednih dinosaura – vrlo vjerojatno malih ornitopoda. Zanimljiva je pojava i tragova srednje velikih ornitopodnih dinosaura (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; DALLA VECCHIA, 2002), vrlo vjerojatno iguanodontida, koji su potvrđeni na dva nalazišta (Kamik/Plješivac i Galija), a na prostoru nekadašnje AdCP (Jadranske karbonatne platforme) njihovi tragovi nisu nigdje drugdje zabilježeni. Od ostalih tipova otisaka pojavljuju se: manji ornitopodni dinosauri (nalazište Vrsar), veliki teropodni dinosauri (nalazište Barban/Pogledalo (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; DALLA VECCHIA, 2002) i nalazište Vanga) te sauropodni dinosauri (nalazište Trstike/Debela Glava i nalazište Vanga).

FOLLOWING THE FOOTPRINTS OF THE BRIJUNI DINOSAURS

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Keywords: Brijuni National Park, dinosaurs, ichnofossils



Brijuni National Park was proclaimed in 1983 due to its exceptionally valuable and diverse natural and cultural heritage, which includes highly significant fossilized dinosaur footprints. Geological and paleontological research on the Brijuni Archipelago began in the first half of the 20th century and has continued continuously since 1987. According to BRČIĆ et al. (2025), eight lithostratigraphic units can be distinguished within the area of Brijuni National Park — three Lower Cretaceous units (Mali Brijun, Kanfanar, and Crna units) and five Quaternary units (red-brown soils on carbonate, bone breccias, marsh sediments, marine gravel, and anthropogenic deposits). Dinosaur track-bearing layers occur in two of the three Cretaceous units (Mali Brijun and Crna), with the Crna unit, dated to the Upper Albian, being the most significant.

Within the park, eight sites and several potential track locations have been identified. The total number of tracks is still being established but is estimated at around three hundred. Five different track types have been distinguished — small to medium-sized theropod, large theropod, small ornithopod, medium-sized ornithopod, and medium to small sauropod tracks. Most tracks belong to small carnivorous theropod dinosaurs and are found at three sites: Ploče (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; DALLA VECCHIA, 2002), Vrsar Islet (MEZGA et al., 2015), and Vanga Island. At all three localities, small theropod footprints occur in two or more sedimentary layers. On the Vrsar site, small theropod tracks appear in the same layer as those of herbivorous dinosaurs — most likely small ornithopods. Tracks of medium-sized ornithopod dinosaurs (MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; DALLA VECCHIA, 2002), probably iguanodontids, are also noteworthy, confirmed at two sites (Kamik/Plješivac and Galija). These represent unique findings, as such tracks have not been recorded elsewhere on the former Adriatic Carbonate Platform (AdCP). Other track types include small ornithopod dinosaurs (Vrsar site), large theropods (Barban/Pogledalo site – MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004; DALLA VECCHIA, 2002 – and Vanga Island), and sauropods (Trstike/Debela Glava site and Vanga Island).

Od sedam nalazišta, samo su dva dostupna za posjećivanje dok se ostala nalaze na području stroge zaštite parka gdje posjećivanje nije dozvoljeno, na području vojne zone i zone Državnih nekretnina (nalazište Kamik, Trstike, otok Vanga i otok Galija). Zadaća JU Nacionalni park Brijuni jest upravljati, očuvati i zaštititi nalazišta koja se sva, nažalost, nalaze na obalnoj liniji na samom dodiru s morem te su pod velikim utjecajem erozije morskih valova, morske vode pa čak i bioerozije morskim organizmima. Nalazišta poput Vrsara, Kamik/Plješivaca i oba nalazišta na otoku Vangi su većinu godine gotovo cijela potopljena što predstavlja iznimno štetan utjecaj na fosilne otiske i veliki izazov u njihovoj zaštiti. Drugi problem su posjetitelji koji svojim aktivnostima, ponekad i nesvjesno, štetno utječu na očuvanje fosilnih otisaka dinosaura. Upravo iz tog razloga, Nacionalni park u svojim edukacijskim aktivnostima veliki dio posvećuje upravo edukaciji o fosilnim tragovima dinosaura kako bi se podigla svijest o važnosti njihova očuvanja.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Predavanje

Tema: Fosilni otisci stopala dinosaura na prostoru NP Brijuni

Of the seven known sites, only two are open to visitors, while the others are located within strictly protected zones of the park, in military or state property areas (Kamik/Plješivac, Trstike/Debela Glava, Vanga Island, and Galija Island). The Brijuni National Park Public Institution is tasked with managing, preserving, and protecting these sites, all of which are unfortunately located along the coastline, directly exposed to the sea and thus heavily affected by wave erosion, seawater, and even bioerosion from marine organisms. Sites such as Vrsar, Kamik/Plješivac, and both localities on Vanga Island are submerged for most of the year, causing severe deterioration of the fossil tracks and posing major conservation challenges. Another issue arises from visitor impact, as certain activities — sometimes unintentional — can damage the fragile fossils. For this reason, the National Park devotes a significant part of its educational activities to raising awareness about the importance of dinosaur footprints and their preservation.

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Type of presentation: Invited Lecture

Topic: Fossilized dinosaur footprints in Brijuni National Park

JURSKI PARK NA HRVATSKI NAČIN

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Ključne riječi: fosili dinosaura, geobaština, zaštita, upravljanje



Na rtu Ploče, na Velikom Brijunu, 1925. godine A. Bachofen-Echt otkrio je prvi trag dinosaura južno od Alpa (MEZGA, 2009). Od tada pa do danas na području Hrvatske otkriveno je više od 25 nalazišta s fosilnim ostacima dinosaura. Prva inicijativa za zaštitu ove vrijedne geobaštine pokrenuta je 2005. godine kada Uprava za zaštitu prirode tadašnjeg Ministarstva kulture upućuje Državnom zavodu za zaštitu prirode zahtjev za izradom stručnog mišljenja za zaštitu fosila dinosaura zaštićenim dijelom prirode – zaštićenim fosilom. Nakon dugogodišnjih izazova i prepreka 25. ožujka 2021. godine doneseno je Rješenje o proglašenju fosila dinosaura zaštićenim dijelovima prirode, značajnim zbog svoje rijetkosti, veličine, izgleda, obrazovnog i znanstvenog značenja. Tim Rješenjem 24 nalazišta zaštićena su temeljem Zakona o zaštiti prirode. Na području Istarske županije nalazi se 21 nalazište kojima upravlja Javna ustanova „Natura Histrica“ (15), Javna ustanova Nacionalni park Brijuni (4) i Javna ustanova „Kamenjak“ (2). Dva nalazišta se nalaze na području Splitsko-dalmatinske županije. Nalazištem Biokovo upravlja Javna ustanova Park prirode „Biokovo“, a nalazištem Žukova Javna ustanova „More i krš“. Jedinim nalazištem na području Zadarske županije upravlja

JURASSIC PARK IN CROATIAN STYLE

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Keywords: dinosaur fossils, geohertiage, protection, management



On Cape Ploče, on Veliki Brijun, A. Bachofen-Echt discovered the first dinosaur track south of the Alps in 1925 (MEZGA, 2009). Since then, more than 25 sites with fossil dinosaur remains have been discovered in Croatia. The first initiative to protect this valuable geohertiage was launched in 2005, when the Nature Protection Directorate of the then Ministry of Culture submitted a request to the State Institute for Nature Protection for the preparation of an expert opinion on the protection of dinosaur fossils as protected natural features – protected fossils. After many years of challenges and obstacles, on March 25, 2021, the **Decision on the Declaration of Dinosaur Fossils as Protected Natural Features** was adopted, recognizing them as significant due to their rarity, size, appearance, and educational and scientific importance. With this decision, 24 sites were legally protected under the Nature Protection Act.

In Istria County, there are 21 sites managed by the Public Institution “Natura Histrica” (15), Brijuni National Park (4), and Kamenjak Public Institution (2). Two sites are located in Split-Dalmatia County: Biokovo is managed by Biokovo Nature Park Public Insti-

Javna ustanova „Natura Jadera“. Dio zaštićenih fosila dinosaura nalazi se unutar zaštićenih područja: Nacionalnog parka „Brijuni“ (4), Parka prirode „Biokovo“ (1), Posebnog rezervata „Datule Barbariga“ (1), Posebnog rezervata „Palud“ (2), Značajnog kraj-obraza „Rovinjski otoci i priobalno područje“ (3) te Značajnog krajobraza „Donji Kamenjak medulinski arhipelag“ (2) (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

Za potrebe upisa zaštićenih fosila dinosaura u Upisnik zaštićenih minerala i fosila u veljači 2025. godine Zavod za zaštitu okoliša i prirode Ministarstva zaštite okoliša i zelene tranzicije izradio je Elaborat i prilog Elaboratu s ciljem adekvatne zaštite i upravljanja ovom vrijednom geobaštinom. Elaboratom su utvrđene granice obuhvata nalazišta, procijenjeno je trenutno stanje te su definirane smjernice za daljnje upravljanje (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

Svako nalazište obrađeno je u tri obrasca. U obrascu A dani su osnovni podaci (naziv, godina zaštite, godina pronalaska, županija/grad/općina na kojoj se nalaze, zaštićeno područje, ustanova koja upravlja nalazištem, vlasništvo, površina i dr.), osnovni geopodaci (vrsta nalaza, starost, opis, vrsta zaštite, značaj) te ostali bitni podaci o nalazištu (ostale značajke pronađene na nalazištu). U obrascu B obrađena je ocjena stanja geolokaliteta (cilj očuvanja, očuvanost, pritisci i prijetnje, ugroženost, edukacijska i posjetiteljska infrastruktura i dostupnost te ocjena stanja nalazišta). U obrascu C dane su smjernice za daljnje upravljanje nalazištem (nadzor i monitoring). Za svako nalazište izrađen je pregledni kartografski prikaz, popis dostupne literature te je priložena fotodokumentacija koja je zabilježena tijekom terenskog rada. U Prilogu elaboratu za svako pojedino nalazište detaljnije su opisane granice uz detaljniji kartografski prikaz. Zbog zaštite samih nalazišta, Prilog elaboratu nije javno dostupan već uvid imaju samo nadležne Javne ustanove koje prema Zakonu o zaštiti prirode upravljaju fosilima dinosaura. Elaborat i Prilog elaboratu predstavlja „nulto“ (početno) stanje ihnofosila i kostiju dinosaura na području Hrvatske te će se novim spoznajama (primjerice pronalaskom novih nalazišta) nadopunjavati i prilagođavati (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

Analizom i vrednovanjem utvrđeno je da su zbog negativnog prirodnog (abrazija, korozija, biokorozija i dr.) te velikog antropogenog utjecaja (posjetitelji, ilegalni sakupljači fosila i dr) sva nalazišta loše očuvana te da postoje stanoviti pritisci i prijetnje koji ugrožavaju njihov opstanak.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Pozvano predavanje
Tema: Zaštita geobaštine

tution, and Žukova by the “More i krš” Public Institution. The only site in Zadar County is managed by the “Natura Jadera” Public Institution. Some of the protected dinosaur fossils are located within protected areas: Brijuni National Park (4), Biokovo Nature Park (1), Special Reserve Datule Barbariga (1), Special Reserve Palud (2), Significant Landscape Rovinj Islands and Coastal Area (3), and Significant Landscape Lower Kamenjak – Medulin Archipelago (2) (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

For the purpose of registering protected dinosaur fossils in the **Register of Protected Minerals and Fossils** in February 2025, the Institute for Environmental and Nature Protection of the Ministry of Environment and Green Transition prepared a **Report** and an **Annex to the Report** to ensure adequate protection and management of this valuable geohertiage. The Report defines site boundaries, assesses the current state, and provides guidelines for future management (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

Each site is documented using three forms. **Form A** contains basic information (name, year of protection, year of discovery, county/municipality, protected area, managing institution, ownership, area, etc.), essential geodata (type of find, age, description, type of protection, significance), and other relevant site information. **Form B** evaluates the condition of the geosite (conservation goal, preservation status, pressures and threats, vulnerability, educational and visitor infrastructure, accessibility, and overall site assessment). **Form C** provides guidelines for future site management (supervision and monitoring). Each site also includes an overview map, a bibliography, and photographic documentation collected during fieldwork. The Annex provides more detailed boundaries and cartographic representation for each site. To protect the sites, the Annex is not publicly available; access is limited to the competent Public Institutions responsible for managing dinosaur fossils under the Nature Protection Act. The Report and its Annex represent the “baseline” condition of dinosaur ichnofossils and bones in Croatia and will be updated and adapted as new discoveries are made (ZZOP, MZOZT, 2025).

Analysis and assessment have shown that due to **negative natural factors** (abrasion, corrosion, biocorrosion, etc.) and **significant anthropogenic impact** (visitors, illegal fossil collectors, etc.), all sites are poorly preserved and face pressures and threats that endanger their survival.

References:

MEZGA, A. (2009): Ihnocoenoses of Dinosaurs on the Adriatic-Dinaric Carbonate Platform, PhD dissertation, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb
ZZOP, MZOZT (2025): Report on the Registration of Protected Dinosaur Fossils in the Register of Protected Minerals and Fossils, Institute for Environmental and Nature Protection, Ministry of Environment and Green Transition, Zagreb
ZZOP, MZOZT (2025): Annex to the Report on the Registration of Protected Dinosaur Fossils in the Register of Protected Minerals and Fossils, Institute for Environmental and Nature Protection, Ministry of Environment and Green Transition, Zagreb

Presentation type: Plenary Lecture

NALAZIŠTA FOSILNIH OTISAKA DINOSAURA U ISTRI – PROBLEMI PRILIKOM ZAŠTITE

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Ključne riječi: fosili dinosaura, zaštita prirode, istarska županija



Zaštita fosila dinosaura predstavlja kompleksan i dugotrajan zadatak koji zahtijeva pažljivo održavanje ravnoteže između imperativa konzervacije i antropogenih potreba. U kontekstu Istarske županije, ključnu ulogu u zaštiti i očuvanju nalazišta fosila dinosaura ima Javna ustanova Natura Histrica. Ustanova upravlja i skrbi o 15 od 21 evidentiranih nalazišta fosila dinosaura na području županije. Upravljanje ovim lokalitetima podrazumijeva djelovanje u ulozi integratora između sustava zaštite prirode i potreba relevantnih dionika u prostoru.

Zaštita i očuvanje samih nalazišta provodi se na nekoliko komplementarnih načina, od kojih se izdvajaju stručno-znanstvena suradnja i edukacija te administrativna i praktična zaštita. Stručno-znanstvena suradnja i edukacija usmjerene su na prijenos znanja i determinaciju znanstveno-edukativne vrijednosti lokaliteta. Administrativna zaštita obuhvaća formalni rad putem propisanih kanala zaštite, što uključuje izradu i suradnju na izradi raznih pravilnika o očuvanju, elaborata stanja te uspostavljanja relevantnih prostorno-planskih ograničenja.

Praktična zaštita odnosi na zakonski propisanu in situ zaštitu te na redovite terenske obilaske čuvara prirode koji kontinuirano nadziru stanje očuvanosti lokaliteta, dokumentiraju promjene i provode mjere zaštite. Učinkovitost praktične zaštite potvrđena je slučajem nalazišta Savudrija gdje je, zahvaljujući brzom intervenciji čuvara prirode, uspješno obustavljeno izvođenje neovlaštenih radova na samom nalazištu čime je spriječen njegov nepovratni gubitak.

Vrsta prezentacije: pozvano predavanje
Tema: Zaštita geobaštine

DINOSAUR FOSSIL TRACK SITES IN ISTRIA – CHALLENGES IN PROTECTION

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Key words: dinosaur fossils, nature protection, Istrian County



The protection of dinosaur fossils represents a complex and long-term task that requires a careful balance between conservation imperatives and anthropogenic needs. In the context of Istria County, the key role in the protection and preservation of dinosaur fossil sites is played by the Public Institution *Natura Histrica*. The institution manages and oversees 15 of the 21 registered dinosaur fossil sites within the county. Management of these sites involves acting as an integrator between the nature protection system and the needs of relevant stakeholders in the area.

The protection and preservation of the sites themselves are implemented through several complementary approaches, the most prominent being professional–scientific cooperation and education, as well as administrative and practical protection. Professional–scientific cooperation and education focus on knowledge transfer and on determining the scientific and educational value of each site. Administrative protection involves formal work through prescribed protection channels, including the preparation and participation in drafting various conservation regulations, condition reports, and the establishment of relevant spatial planning restrictions.

Practical protection refers to legally mandated *in situ* conservation and to regular field inspections by nature wardens who continuously monitor the preservation status of the sites, document changes, and implement protection measures. The effectiveness of practical protection was demonstrated in the case of the Savudrija site, where, thanks to the quick intervention of nature wardens, unauthorized works at the site were successfully stopped, preventing its irreversible loss.

Presentation type: Invited Presentation
Topic: geoheritage protection

ANALIZA FOSILNOG SADRŽAJA U STIJENAMA VIŠKOG ARHIPELAGA

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Ključne riječi: fosili, geobaština, Viški arhipelag



Provođenje geoloških istraživanja u svrhu izrade ovog rada zasni va se na interesu za očuvanjem geobaštine, upoznavanjem izumrlih organizmima koji su živjeli u geološkoj prošlosti te njihovim značajem pri rekonstruiranju geološke i evolucijske povijesti. Cilj istraživanja bio je odrediti vrste stijena na području Geoparka Viški arhipelag prema načinu postanka, makroskopski i mikroskopski analizirati fosilni sadržaj u tim stijenama, potvrditi starost stijena usporedbom analiziranog sadržaja s prethodnim istraživanjima, odrediti prisutnost fosila u različitim vrstama stijena te u konačnici interpretirati okoliš u kojem su živjeli ti organizmi. Proveden je terenski rad na 10 lokaliteta unutar Geoparka Viški arhipelag na kojima su opisani izdanci i sakupljeni uzorci stijena. U školskom laboratoriju proučavana je geološka karta navedenog područja te makroskopski i mikroskopski analizirani prikupljeni uzorci. Rezultati analiza pokazali su da prikupljeni uzorci stijena po postanku pripadaju sedimentnim i magmatskim stijenama. Fosilni sadržaj uočen je u određenim sedimentnim stijenama dok u magmatskim stijenama nije bilo fosilnog sadržaja. U analiziranom fosilnom sadržaju dominirali su fosilni ostaci rudista, foraminifera i ostalih mikroskopskih organizama karakterističnih za geološke ere mezozoik i kenozoik. Na temelju fosilnog sadržaja opisan je taložni okoliš u kojem su živjeli fosilizirani organizmi. Ključne riječi: fosili, geobaština, Viški arhipelag

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ANALYSIS OF FOSSIL CONTENT IN THE ROCKS OF THE VIS ARCHIPELAGO

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Keywords: fossils, geoheritage, Vis Archipelago



The implementation of geological research for the purpose of this study was based on the interest in preserving geoheritage, learning about extinct organisms that lived in geological history, and understanding their significance in reconstructing geological and evolutionary processes. The aim of the research was to determine the rock types in the Vis Archipelago Geopark area according to their origin, to conduct macroscopic and microscopic analyses of fossil content in these rocks, to confirm the age of the rocks by comparing the analyzed content with previous studies, to identify the presence of fossils in different rock types, and ultimately to interpret the environment in which these organisms lived. Fieldwork was carried out at 10 sites within the Vis Archipelago Geopark, where outcrops were described and rock samples collected. In the school laboratory, the geological map of the area was studied, and the collected samples were analyzed both macroscopically and microscopically. The results of the analyses showed that the collected samples belong to sedimentary and igneous rocks. Fossil content was observed in certain sedimentary rocks, while igneous rocks contained no fossil material. Within the analyzed fossil content, remains of rudists, foraminifera, and other microscopic organisms characteristic of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras dominated. Based on the fossil content, the depositional environment in which these fossilized organisms once lived was described.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Prezentacija

Tema: Paleontologija

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Presentation type: Presentation and Poster

Topic: Paleontology

GORNJOKREDNI FOSILNI OSTACI DINOSAURA I KROKODILA IZ KOZINE, SLOVENIJA; POSEBAN DIO ZAPISA O JADRANSKIM DINOSAURIMA

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Ključne riječi: dinosauri, krokodili, paleokrš, kampan-maastricht, Slovenija



Fosilno nalazište Kozina otkriveno je prije više od četvrt stoljeća, tijekom projekta geološkog monitoringa koji je proveo Institut za paleontologiju Ivana Rakovca ZRC SAZU (PIIR) prilikom gradnje autoceste. Lokalitet je dao fragmentarne, ali značajne ostatke dinosaura i krokodilomorfa iz najmlađeg dijela kredne (kampan–maastricht) karbonatne platforme jugozapadne Slovenije. Početna istraživanja bila su usmjerena na očuvanje lokaliteta — danas zaštićenog i kontroliranog s ograničenim pristupom unutar područja autoceste —, prikupljanje ostataka kralježnjaka, pripremu manjeg dijela iskopanog materijala te preliminarnu paleontološku studiju (DEBELJAK i sur. 1999, 2002).

Ostaci kopnenih kralježnjaka pojavljuju se u subvertikalnoj paleokraškoj jami ispunjenoj s nekoliko generacija brečastih naslaga koje sadrže izolirane, većinom snažno fragmentirane kosti i zube. Sastav i struktura paleokraške breče te fragmentirana priroda skeletnog materijala ukazuju na subaeralno trošenje i naknadno premještanje ostataka kralježnjaka u paleokrašku depresiju. Paleokraška površina, koja predstavlja veliku diskordanciju u karbonatnoj sukcesiji Jadranske karbonatne platforme (AdCP), razdvaja ?donjokampanske vapnence formacije Lipica od gornjomaastrichtskog bazalnog dijela liburnijske formacije. Starost kralježnjaka nije precizno određena; ona odgovara razdoblju subaeralne izloženosti platforme unutar raspona hiatusa (5–10 milijuna godina) predstavljenog diskordancijom.

Identifikacija taksona kralježnjaka temeljila se isključivo na izoliranim zubima. Debeljak i sur. (2002) odredili su 8 različitih morfotipova zubi: 3 su pripisana ornitopodima, 2 malim teropodima, a 3 krokodilima. Tijekom revizije materijala utvrđeno je da nekoliko morfologija zubi ornitopoda vjerojatno pripada jednoj vrsti, *Tethyshadros insularis*, hadrosauru pronađenom

LATEST CRETACEOUS DINOSAUR AND CROCODILE REMAINS FROM KOZINA, SLOVENIA: A SPECIAL PIECE OF THE ADRIATIC DINOSAUR RECORD

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Ključne riječi: dinosauri, krokodili, paleokrš, kampan-maastricht, Slovenija



The Kozina fossil site was discovered in a roadcut excavated by the motorway construction works more than a quarter of a century ago, during a project of geological monitoring, performed by the Ivan Rakovec Institute of Palaeontology ZRC SAZU (PIIR). The site has yielded fragmentary but significant remains of dinosaurs and crocodyliforms from the uppermost Cretaceous (Campanian-Maastrichtian) carbonate platform succession in SW Slovenia. Initial investigations were focused on preserving the locality —now protected and controlled with a limited access within the motorway area—, sampling of vertebrate remains, preparation of a smaller part of the excavated material, and a preliminary palaeontological study (DEBELJAK et al. 1999, 2002).

Terrestrial vertebrate remains occur in a subvertical palaeokarstic pit, filled by several generations of breccia deposits containing isolated, mostly highly fragmented bones and teeth. Composition and structure of the paleokarst breccia and the fragmented nature of the skeletal material indicate subaerial weathering and subsequent reworking of vertebrate remains into a paleokarst depression. The palaeokarst surface, representing a major unconformity in the carbonate succession of the Adriatic Carbonate Platform (AdCP), separates ?lower Campanian limestone of the Lipica Formation from the upper Maastrichtian basal part of the Liburnian Formation. The age of the vertebrates has not been accurately determined; it corresponds to the period of subaerial exposure of the platform within the range of the hiatus (5-10 Ma) represented by the unconformity.

The identification of vertebrate taxa has been based solely on isolated teeth. Debeljak et al. (2002) determined 8 different morphotypes of teeth: 3 of them were attributed to ornithopods, 2 to small theropods and 3 to crocodiles. An ongoing revision of

na obližnjem lokalitetu Ribiško naselje (Villaggio del Pescatore) kraj Devina/Duina (DALLA VECCHIA 2009, CHIARENZA i sur. 2021), dok neki od zubi, prvotno pripisani malim teropodnim dinosaurima, mogu pripadati krokodilima. Među krokodilskim zubima, najkarakterističniji i najbrojniji oblici s lokaliteta Kozina očito pripadaju vrsti *Acynodon adriaticus*, nedavno opisanoj vrsti hijlaeokampsidnog krokodilomorfa s lokaliteta Ribiško naselje Lagerstätte (MUSCIONI i sur. 2023). Sličnost faune kralježnjaka s lokaliteta Kozina i Ribiško naselje ukazuje na potrebu stratigrafske revizije oba lokaliteta, osobito u smislu određivanja starosti paleokraških naslaga s ostacima kralježnjaka u Kozini.

Lokalitet kralježnjaka kod Kozine proglašen je prirodnom vrijednošću od nacionalnog značaja (vidi npr. Atlas prirodne baštine Slovenije, www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si). Njegov položaj unutar zatvorenog područja autoceste omogućuje strogu kontrolu pristupa, pri čemu se nadzirani ulaz odobrava istraživačima i studentima na temelju zahtjeva koji odobrava upravitelj autoceste. Režim zaštite zabranjuje bilo kakva neovlaštena iskopavanja i uzorkovanja na lokalitetu, dok je nekoliko tona materijala dobivenog tijekom radova na izgradnji autoceste pohranjeno u PIIR-u. Zaštićeno područje obuhvaća usjek ceste s više od 100 m dugom izloženom površinom paleokraške diskordancije: ti izdanci pružaju jedinstvenu edukativnu priliku za prikaz paleo-okolišnog konteksta faune kopnenih kralježnjaka i objašnjenje prirode stratigrafskog zapisa AdCP-a.

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Vrsta prezentacije: Prezentacija
Tema: Fosilno nalazište Kozina

the material has shown that several ornithopod tooth morphologies probably belong to a single species, i.e., *Tethyshadros insularis*, a hadrosaur found in the nearby locality at Ribiško naselje (Villaggio del Pescatore) near Devin/Duino (DALLA VECCHIA 2009, CHIARENZA et al. 2021), while some of the teeth, originally ascribed to small theropod dinosaurs, might belong to crocodiles. Among the crocodile teeth, the most characteristic and abundant forms from the Kozina site apparently belong to *Acynodon adriaticus*, a recently described hylaeochampsid crocodylomorph species from the Ribiško naselje Lagerstätte site (MUSCIONI et al. 2023). Similarity of vertebrate assemblages from the Kozina and Ribiško naselje sites demonstrates a need for a stratigraphic revision of both sites, particularly assessing the possibilities of age determination of the vertebrate-bearing palaeokarstic deposits in Kozina.

The vertebrate locality at Kozina has been declared a Natural feature of national importance (see e.g., Nature Conservation Atlas of Slovenia, www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si). Its location within the enclosed motorway zone enables strict access control with a supervised admission granted to researchers and students upon a request approved by the motorway authorities. The protection regime prohibits any unauthorised excavation and sampling at the locality, while several tons of material, obtained during the motorway construction works, are stored at PIIR. The protected area includes the roadcut with a more than 100 m long exposure of the palaeokarstic unconformity: these outcrops provide a unique educational opportunity to show the palaeoenvironmental context of the terrestrial vertebrate fauna, and explain the nature of the stratigraphic record of AdCP.

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Presentation type: Presentation
Topic: Kozina fossil site

ZNANSTVENO-STRUČNI SKUP „TRAGOVIMA DINOSAURA –
IZMEĐU ZNANOSTI I OČUVANJA“

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS –
BETWEEN SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION”

—
14. – 16. 10. 2025.
VELI BRIJUN, HRVATSKA / CROATIA

VODIČ EKSURZIJE
EXCURSION GUIDE - BOOK

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Slika 26: Fosilni trag stopala ornitopodnog dinosaura s nalazišta Kamik/Plješivac, gornji alb, starija kreda, starosti 105 milijuna godina, Veli Brijun; autor fotografije: Damir Pocrnić

Figure 26: Fossil footprint of an ornithomimid dinosaur from the Kamik/Plješivac site, Upper Albian, Early Cretaceous, approximately 105 million years old, Veliki Brijun; Photo by Damir Pocrnić.

KRATKI OSVRT NA GEOLOGIJU
ISTRE

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE
GEOLOGY OF ISTRIA

Istra pripada sjeverozapadnom dijelu Jadranske karbonatne platforme (AdCP). AdCP je paleogeografska jedinica koja danas izdanjuje u području sjeveroistočne Italije, Slovenije, Hrvatske, Bosne i Hercegovine i Crne Gore. Tijekom mezozoika AdCP je bila jedna od nekoliko Jadranskih platformi orijentirana približno u smjeru SZ-JI, te okružena dubokim morskim bazenima uzduž zapadne, sjeverne i istočne strane. Prema svojoj veličini, obliku i strukturi može se smatrati djelomice analognom današnjem arhipelagu Bahama. AdCP predstavlja sjeverni vrh Središnje mediteranske karbonatne platforme (VLAHOVIĆ et al. 2005), veće paleogeografske jedinice također izdužene pravcem SZ-JI. Tijekom mezozoika AdCP je obilježena plitkovodnom karbonatnom sedimenacijom.

Istra je uglavnom izgrađena od plitkovodnih karbonata stratigrafskog raspona od srednje jure do eocena (VELIĆ et al. 2003), te u manjoj mjeri od eocenskih siliciklastičnih stijena, fliša i vapnenačkih breča. Slijed istarskih naslaga može se podijeliti u pet sedimentacijskih jedinica ili megasekvencija odvojenih značajnim prekidima – emerzijskim površinama različitog trajanja (TIŠLJAR et al. 1998; VLAHOVIĆ et al. 2005). Te megasekvencije su: (1) bat – najstariji kimeridž, (2) mlađi titon – stariji ili mlađi apt, (3) mlađi alb – mlađi santon, (4) eocen i (5) kvartar.

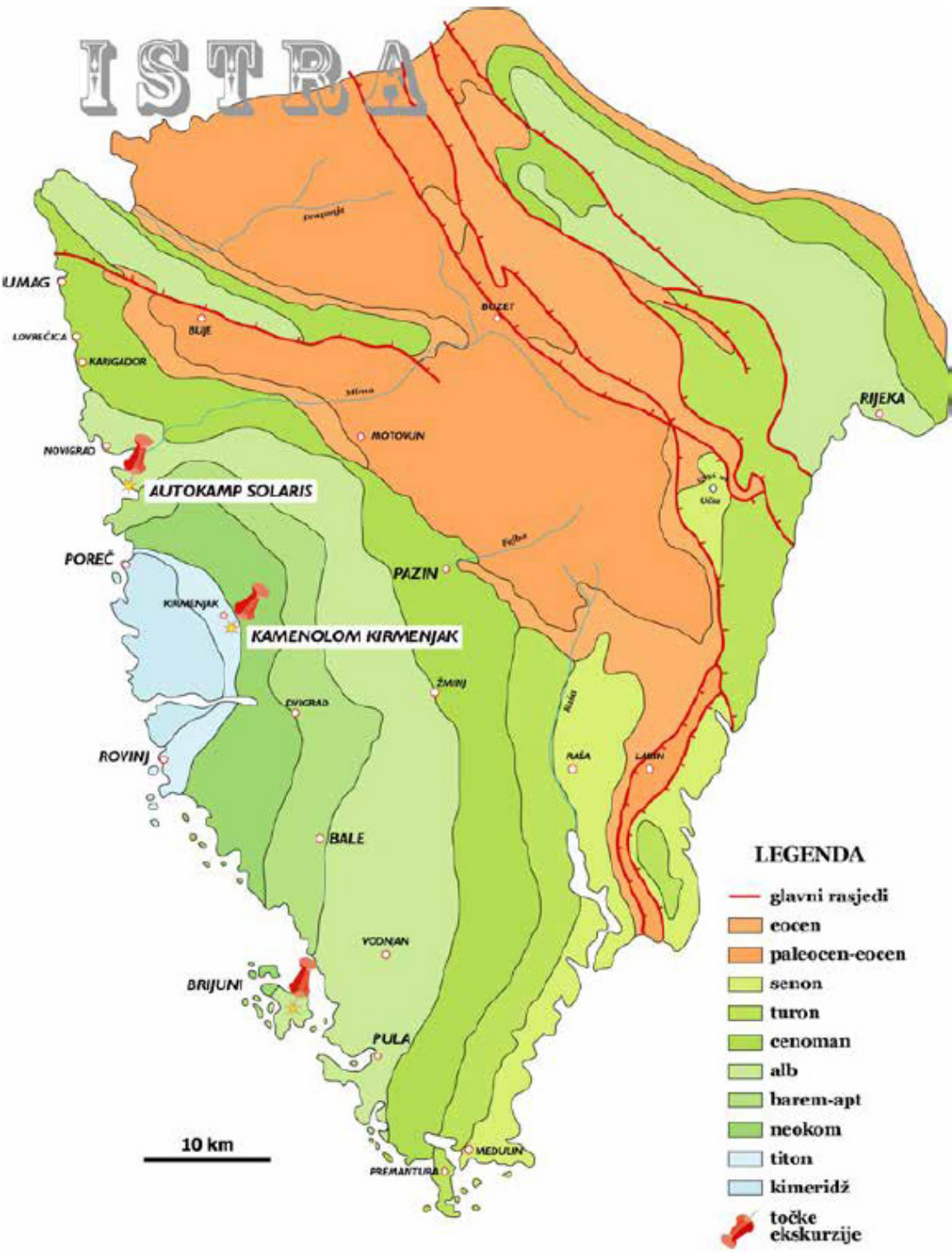
Prva megasekvencija (bat – najstariji kimeridž) obilježena je trendom oplićavanja i pokrupnjavanja prema gore, što je u vršnom dijelu obilježeno pojavom regresivnih breča i okopnjavanjem s ležištima boksita i otiscima stopala dinosaura. Druga je megasekvencija (mlađi titon – stariji ili mlađi apt) vrlo kompleksna, osobito s obzirom na heterogenost facijesa i veliku debljinu slojeva. S litološke strane, dominiraju različiti tipovi peritajdalnih naslaga, osobito peletni vapnenci i LLH-stromatoliti, te emerzijske breče s glinovitim ispunom, rano- i kasnodijagenetski dolomiti i grejnstoni. Treća je megasekvencija (mlađi alb - mlađi santon) vrlo debela s vrlo varijabilnim slijedom facijesa i učestalom pojavom otisaka stopala dinosaura. Stratigrafski slijed eocena obuhvaća relativno debeo slijed karbonatnih i klastičnih stijena koji je vrlo raznolik u lateralnom i vertikalnom smislu posebice imajući na umu promjenu taložnih uvjeta u morskim okolišima tijekom paleogena. Naslage se općenito mogu podijeliti na: Liburnijske naslage, foraminiferske vapnenice, prijelazne naslage i fliš.

Istria belongs to the northwestern part of the Adriatic Carbonate Platform (AdCP). The AdCP is a paleogeographic unit that today extends across northeastern Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. During the Mesozoic, the AdCP was one of several Adriatic platforms, oriented approximately NW-SE and surrounded by deep marine basins along its western, northern, and eastern margins. In terms of its size, shape, and structure, it can be considered partially analogous to the present-day Bahama archipelago. The AdCP represents the northern tip of the Central Mediterranean Carbonate Platform (VLAHOVIĆ et al., 2005), a larger paleogeographic unit also elongated in a NW-SE direction. During the Mesozoic, the AdCP was characterized by shallow-water carbonate sedimentation.

Istria is predominantly composed of shallow-water carbonates with a stratigraphic range from the Middle Jurassic to the Eocene (VELIĆ et al., 2003), and, to a lesser extent, Eocene siliciclastic rocks, flysch, and carbonate breccias. The sequence of Istrian deposits can be divided into five sedimentary units or megasequences, separated by significant interruptions – emergence surfaces of varying duration (TIŠLJAR et al., 1998; VLAHOVIĆ et al., 2005). These megasequences are: (1) Bathonian – earliest Kimmeridgian, (2) late Tithonian – early or late Aptian, (3) late Albian – late Santonian, (4) Eocene, and (5) Quaternary.

The first megasequence (Bathonian – earliest Kimmeridgian) is characterized by an upward trend of shallowing and coarsening, which in its upper part is marked by the occurrence of regressive breccias and the development of bauxite deposits and dinosaur footprints. The second megasequence (late Tithonian – early or late Aptian) is highly complex, particularly with regard to facies heterogeneity and the considerable thickness of layers. Lithologically, it is dominated by various types of peritidal deposits, especially pelletal limestones and LLH stromatolites, as well as emergent breccias with clayey matrix, early- and late-diagenetic dolomites, and grainstones.

The third megasequence (late Albian – late Santonian) is very thick, with a highly variable facies sequence and frequent occurrences of dinosaur footprints. The Eocene stratigraphic sequence comprises a relatively thick succession of carbonate and clastic rocks that is highly diverse laterally and vertically, particularly considering the changing depositional conditions in marine environments during the Paleogene. These deposits can generally be divided into: Liburnian deposits, foraminiferal limestones, transitional deposits, and flysch.



Slika 27: Geološka karta Istre s točkama ekskurzije (modificirano prema geološkoj karti SFRJ, (1970)

Figure 27: Geological map of Istria with excursion points (modified after the Geological Map of the SFRY, 1970).

TOČKA 1: VELI BRIJUN

Većina nalaza dinosaura na AdCP potječe iz krednih sedime-
nata istarskog poluotoka, među kojima razlikujemo brojna na-
lazišta otisaka stopala dinosaura, ali i njihovih kostiju. Iako je
AdCP kao neovisna paleogeografska jedinica nastala tijekom
starije jure (VLAHOVIĆ et al. 2005) na njoj zasad ne postoje na-
lazi dinosaura stariji od mlađeg titona.

Brijunsko otočje danas svakako predstavlja jednu od najatrak-
tivnijih turističkih destinacija u Hrvatskoj gdje u okviru tzv.
znanstvenog turizma značajno mjesto zauzimaju i paleontološ-
ki nalazi tragova kretanja dinosaura, tih veličanstvenih “straš-
nih guštera” koji su vladali Zemljom 160 milijuna godina (od
razdoblja mlađeg trijasa do kraja razdoblja krede).

Nastanjivali su i područje današnje Istre, a u okviru nekadaš-
njeg zajedničkog kopna i područje Brijuna. Brijunski arhipelag
vrlo je bogat izdancima s otiscima stopala dinosaura, koje je otkrio još 1925. godine austrijski industrijalac A. Bachofen–Echt. Otkrivene otiske Bachofen–Echt je pripisao biljojednom rodu *Iguanodon*, no danas sigurno znamo da oni pripadaju meso-
jednom dinosauru iz skupine Theropoda.

Kasnije su nalaze otisaka na Brijunima registrirali i POLŠAK (1965), te VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR (1987) i dr. Prva studioznija i intenziv-
nija paleoihnološka istraživanja (dio paleontologije koji prou-
čava sve vidove kretanja fosilnih životinja, pa tako i dinosaura) započinju devedesetih godina prošlog stoljeća, kao rezultat općeg globalnog trenda. U tim su istraživanjima sudjelovali talijanski i hrvatski znanstvenici (DALLA VECCHIA et al., 2002; MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004). Suradnja s domaćim istra-
živačima nastavlja se do današnjeg dana u sklopu godišnjih aktivnosti JU Nacionalni park Brijuni s ciljem što bolje zaštite fosilnih nalazišta, ali i edukacije kako bi se podigla svijest o nji-
hovoj važnosti kao vrijednog dijela geobaštine ne samo Brijuna nego i Hrvatske općenito.

Na otoku Veli Brijun zasad je pronađeno osam lokaliteta s do-
bro sačuvanim otiscima stopala dinosaura. Ti lokaliteti nalaze se na rtovima Pogledalo/Barban, Ploče, Kamik/Plješivac, Trstike/Debela Glava, te na otočićima Vrsar, Vanga i Galija (sl. 26). Ukupno je pronađeno preko 300 pojedinačnih otisaka. Sam otok je izgrađen od horizontalnih – subhorizontalnih karbo-
natnih sedimenata starosti mlađi barem – mlađi alb. Karbo-
natni sedimenti od kojih je izgrađen Veli Brijun taloženi su u plitkomorskim okolišima karbonatne platforme koji su varirali od plitko subtajdalnih do intertajdalnih okoliša uz česta izro-
njavanja (VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR 1987). Prvo detaljno geološko karti-
ranje brijunskog otočja provedeno je 2024. i 2025. godine te je izdvojeno ukupno osam litostratigrafskih jedinica, od čega tri kredne i pet kvartarnih jedinica. S obzirom na undulirane struk-
ture i iznimno blag kut nagiba slojeva ukupna debljina jedinica na prostoru NP Brijuni iznosi tek oko 265 m (BRČIĆ et.al. 2025).

STOP 1: VELI BRIJUN

Most dinosaur findings on the AdCP come from Cretaceous sed-
iments of the Istrian Peninsula, among which numerous sites
with dinosaur footprints, as well as bones, have been identi-
fied. Although the AdCP emerged as an independent paleo-geo-
graphic unit during the Early Jurassic (VLAHOVIĆ et al., 2005),
there are currently no dinosaur findings older than the late Ti-
thonian.

The Brijuni archipelago today represents one of the most at-
tractive tourist destinations in Croatia, where paleontological
discoveries of dinosaur tracks hold a significant place within
the framework of so-called scientific tourism. These tracks be-
longed to the magnificent “terrible lizards” that dominated the
Earth for 160 million years (from the Late Triassic to the end of
the Cretaceous).

Dinosaurs inhabited the area of present-day Istria and, as part
of the former contiguous landmass, the Brijuni region. The Bri-
juni archipelago is particularly rich in outcrops with dinosaur
footprints, first discovered in 1925 by the Austrian industrial-
ist A. Bachofen–Echt. Bachofen–Echt initially attributed the
footprints to the herbivorous genus *Iguanodon*, but today it is
known with certainty that they belong to a carnivorous dinosaur
from the Theropoda group.

Subsequently, Polšak (1965), Velić & Tišljär (1987), and others
registered additional footprint findings on Brijuni. More de-
tailed and intensive paleoichnological studies (the branch of
paleontology that investigates all forms of fossilized animal
movement, including dinosaurs) began in the 1990s as part of
a global research trend. These studies involved Italian and Cro-
atian scientists (DALLA VECCHIA et al., 2002; MEZGA & BAJRAK-
TAREVIĆ, 2004). Collaboration with local researchers continues
today within the framework of the annual activities of the Bri-
juni National Park, aiming to ensure better protection of fossil
sites and to promote education and awareness of their value
as an important part of the geoheritage of Brijuni and Croatia
in general.

On the island of Veli Brijun, eight sites with well-preserved di-
nosaur footprints have been identified so far. These sites are lo-
cated at the capes Pogledalo/Barban, Ploče, Kamik/Plješivac,
Trstike/Debela Glava, and on the islets Vrsar, Vanga, and Galija
(Fig. 26). Over 300 individual footprints have been discovered.
The island itself is composed of horizontal to subhorizontal
carbonate sediments of late Barremian to late Albian age. The
carbonate sediments forming Veli Brijun were deposited in
shallow marine environments of the carbonate platform, rang-
ing from shallow subtidal to intertidal settings, with frequent
emergences (VELIĆ & TIŠLJAR, 1987). The first detailed geolog-
ical mapping of the Brijuni archipelago was conducted in 2024
and 2025, identifying eight lithostratigraphic units in total:

**Od krednih litostratigrafskih jedinica na prostoru NP Brijuni
određene su:**

Litostratigrafska jedinica Mali Brijun starosti mlađi barem,
debljine oko 100 metara s prisutnim kontinuiranim izmjenama
debljih paketa cijanobakterijsko-algalnih laminita (LLH stro-
matolita) sa sitnozrnatstijim naslagama pločastog habitusa uz
povremeni prekid s emerzijskim brečama različitog habitusa.
Sporadično se javljaju i dolomiti. Biostratigrafska pripadnost
određena je nalazima zelenih algi roda *Salpingoporella* (*S. me-
lita*e, *S. muehlbergii*, *S. genevensis*, *S. urlandasi*), a uz njih pri-
sutne su i bentičke foraminifere poput rodova *Cuneolina*, *Pra-
echrsalinida infracretacea*, *Debarina hahouenerensis* i drugih
(BRČIĆ et.al. 2025.). Unutar jedinice Mali Brijun, osim izrazitih
i čestih LLH stromatolita, sporadično se mogu naći pojave ma-
njih valnih riplova, paleo pukotina isušivanja i fosilnih otisaka
stopala dinosaura.

Litostratigrafska jedinica Kanfanar starosti stariji apt s tipom
naslaga široko poznatim kao „Istarski žuti“, jednim od najbo-
ljih arhitektonsko-građevnih vapnenaca na području Istre koji
se na Brijunima intenzivno eksploatirao još od antičkih vre-
mena, osobito na otočiću Sveti Jerolim. Njena debljina iznosi
maksimalno 15 metara, a na području parka može se naći u vrlo
uskim zonama na otoku Veli Brijun i na dva otočića unutar arhi-
pelaga – Sveti Marko i već spomenuti Sveti Jerolim gdje je cijeli
otok izgrađen od jedinice Kanfanar. Ove naslage karakteristične
su po svijetlosmeđim do žučkastim litotipovima s krupnim on-
koidnim nakupinama, mikritnom osnovom i ponegdje, u stari-
jim dijelovima naslaga i krupnim presjecima školjkaša. Prijelaz
u krovinsku jedinicu Crna obilježen je snažnim diskontinuite-
tom kojeg čine emerzijske breče, dolomitizirani horizonti, ali
i glinoviti materijal s nekadašnjeg kopna. Od provodnih fosila
najznačajnija je vrsta foraminifera *Palorbitolina lenticularis* dok
se karakteristično javlja i vrste zelenih algi poput *Bacinella irre-
gularis*, *Lithocodium* ili *Thaumatoporella* (BRČIĆ et.al. 2025).

Litostratigrafska jedinica Crna (FUČEK et.al. 2012) starosti mla-
đi alb na prostoru NP Brijuni debljine je maksimalno 150 me-
tara i diskordantno liježe na jedinicu Kanfanar. Prostire se na
sjeveroistočnom i južnom dijelu Velog Brijuna te na okolnim
otocima Vanga (Krasnica), Galija, Vrsar, Kotež (Kozada) i djelom
Pustog otoka (Madone). Prijelaz iz podinske jedinice Kanfanar
obilježen je regionalnom aptsko-albskom emerzijom koja je na
području NP Brijuni mogla trajati i do 10 milijuna godina. Jedi-
nica Crna sastoji se od krupnozrnastih, gusto pakiranih i dobro
sortiranih grejnstona s brojim presjecima krupnih miliolida u
izmjeni s cijanobakterijsko-algalnim laminitima (uz pojavu LLH
stromatolita), pločastim zrnatim varijetetima, proslojcima mad-
stona i emerzijskim brečama. Od strukturnih obilježja ističu se
horizonti s valnim riplovima velikih dimenzija, kokine gastro-
poda *Nerinea*, kokine hamoidnih školjkaša, desikacijske pu-
kotine, krpasti grebeni s rudistnim radiolitidnim floutstonima i
otisci stopala dinosaura te, moguće, i drugih gmazova. Od mi-
krofosila ističu se *Pseudonummoloculina heimi*, *Nezzazatinella
picardi*, *Cuneolina pavonia/parva*, *Scandonea pumila/phoeni-*

three Cretaceous and five Quaternary units. Due to undulating
structures and the very gentle dip of the layers, the total thick-
ness of units in the Brijuni National Park area is only about 265
m (BRČIĆ et al., 2025).

Cretaceous lithostratigraphic units: Mali Brijun unit – late
Barremian age, approximately 100 m thick, characterized by
continuous alternations of thick packages of cyanobacteria-al-
gal laminites (LLH stromatolites) with fine-grained, platy lay-
ers interrupted occasionally by emergent breccias of various
textures. Dolomites occur sporadically. Biostratigraphic as-
signment is based on findings of green algae of the genus *Sal-
pingoporella* (*S. melita*e, *S. muehlbergii*, *S. genevensis*, *S. ur-
landasi*) and benthic foraminifera, including genera *Cuneolina*,
Praechrsalinida infracretacea, *Debarina hahouenerensis*, and
others (BRČIĆ et al., 2025). Within the Mali Brijun unit, besides
the abundant LLH stromatolites, minor wave ripples, paleo-des-
iccation cracks, and fossil dinosaur footprints can occasionally
be found.

Kanfanar unit – older Aptian age, known for its deposits called
“Istrian yellow,” considered among the best architectural and
building limestones in Istria and intensively quarried on Bri-
juni since ancient times, especially on the islet of Sveti Jerolim.
Maximum thickness is about 15 m, occurring in narrow zones on
Veli Brijun and the islets of Sveti Marko and Sveti Jerolim, where
the entire islet consists of the Kanfanar unit. These deposits are
characterized by light brown to yellowish lithotypes with coarse
oncoïd accumulations, micritic matrix, and in older layers, large
bivalve sections. The transition to the overlying Crna unit is
marked by strong discontinuities composed of emergent brec-
cias, dolomitized horizons, and clayey material from the former
land surface. The most significant index fossil is the foraminifer
Palorbitolina lenticularis, with characteristic green algae such
as *Bacinella irregularis*, *Lithocodium*, and *Thaumatoporella*
(BRČIĆ et al., 2025).

Crna unit – late Albian age, maximum thickness 150 m, discor-
dantly overlying the Kanfanar unit. Extends across northeastern
and southern Veli Brijun and nearby islets Vanga (Krasnica),
Galija, Vrsar, Kotež (Kozada), and part of Pusti Otok (Madone).
The transition from the Kanfanar unit is marked by a regional
Aptian–Albian emergence, lasting up to 10 million years in the
Brijuni area. The Crna unit consists of coarse-grained, densely
packed, well-sorted grainstones with numerous miliolid frag-
ments, alternating with cyanobacteria-algal laminites (includ-
ing LLH stromatolites), platy-grained varieties, madstones, and
emergent breccias. Structural features include large wave rip-
ples, *Nerinea* gastropod casts, hamoid bivalve casts, desicca-
tion cracks, rudist-radiolitid floatstone mounds, and dinosaur
footprints, possibly of other reptiles. Key microfossils include
Pseudonummoloculina heimi, *Nezzazatinella picardi*, *Cuneolina
pavonia/parva*, *Scandonea pumila/phoenisa*, and *Valdanchel-
la dercurti* (BRČIĆ et al., 2025). On Veli Brijun, a particularly rep-
resentative exposure of the Crna unit can be observed along the
Zelenikovac educational trail.

sa i *Valdanchella dercurti* (BRČIĆ et.al. 2025). Na Velom Brijunu vrlo reprezentativna pojava jedinice Crna može se pratiti duž poučne staze Zelenikovac na istoimenom poluotoku.

Najstarije nalazište na Brijunima je ono smješteno u sedimentima mlađeg barema unutar litostratigrafske jedinice Mali Brijun na rtu Pogledalo/Barban. Na izdanku je utvrđeno šezdesetak otisaka stopala dinosaura od kojih su neki smješteni u stazama kretanja, dok se drugi nalaze pojedinačno. Otisci su troprsti, dugih prstiju, ponegdje sačuvanih i otisaka kandži (sl. 28). Dužine otisaka variraju od 30 – 40 cm. Na temelju morfologije i dimenzija otisci su pripisani velikim teropodnim dinosaurima sličnim alosauridima. Dužina tih velikih mesojeda bila je 5 – 7.5 metara, a brzina njihova kretanja procijenjena je na 5 – 6 km/h. Iako je na rtu Pogledalo/Barban utvrđena velika gustoća otisaka, ne postoje preferirani smjerovi kretanja jedinki, naprotiv, otisci su usmjereni u gotovo svim pravcima. Na lokalitetu su prisutni otisci nekoliko desetaka jedinki, od kojih se neki preklapaju što svjedoči da su dinosauri tuda prolazili u različitim vremenskim intervalima. Karakteristični su i različiti stupnjevi očuvanja otisaka kao rezultat različite konzistencije substrata (odnosno njegove saturiranosti vodom). 2012. godine na ovom je nalazištu u suradnji NP Brijuni i geološkog odsjeka PMF-a izrađena i postavljena skulptura teropodnog dinosaura iz skupine Carnosauria u prirodnoj veličini.

Lokalitet na rtu Ploče (Zelenikovac) nalazi se u sedimentima starosti mlađeg alba unutar jedinice Crna. Na lokalitetu su pronađeni otisci malih teropodnih dinosaura. Otisci su na izdanku raspoređeni na dvije slojne plohe koje se nalaze neposredno jedna iznad druge. Od ukupno četrdesetak otisaka njih više od pola čine pet jasno vidljivih staza kretanja. Neki od tih troprstih otisaka dobro su sačuvani, izražene morfologije, s vidljivim otiscima kandži, tipični za dvonožne dinosaure mesojede (sl. 28). S obzirom na dimenzije njihovih otisaka, procijenjeno je da je dužina ovih teropodnih dinosaura bila 3 – 4.5 metra, dok im je brzina varirala od 5 do 9 km/h.

Osim na navedenim lokalitetima, pojedinačne otiske možemo vidjeti pri samom silasku s broda na glavni mol velobrijunske luke, gdje je u donesenom (alohtonom) kamenom bloku vapnenca vidljiv tridaktalni (troprsti) otisak, vjerojatno krupnog mesojeda iz skupine Theropoda. Pet pojedinačnih otisaka troprstih dvonožnih mesojeda u izvađenim kamenim blokovima s lokaliteta na rtu Ploče čuva se u zgradi muzeja u sklopu geološko-paleontološke zbirke NP Brijuni.

Na prostoru NP Brijuni potvrđeno je sedam ili osam nalazišta, međutim, osim gore spomenutih, ostala nalazišta nisu dostupna za posjećivanje zbog toga što se nalaze unutar zone najstrože zaštite Nacionalnog parka (nalazište Vrsar) ili u vojnoj zoni (nalazišta na južnom djelu Velog Brijuna i na otocima Vanga i Galija) gdje je jedino dozvoljeno provođenje istraživanja uz dopuštenje.

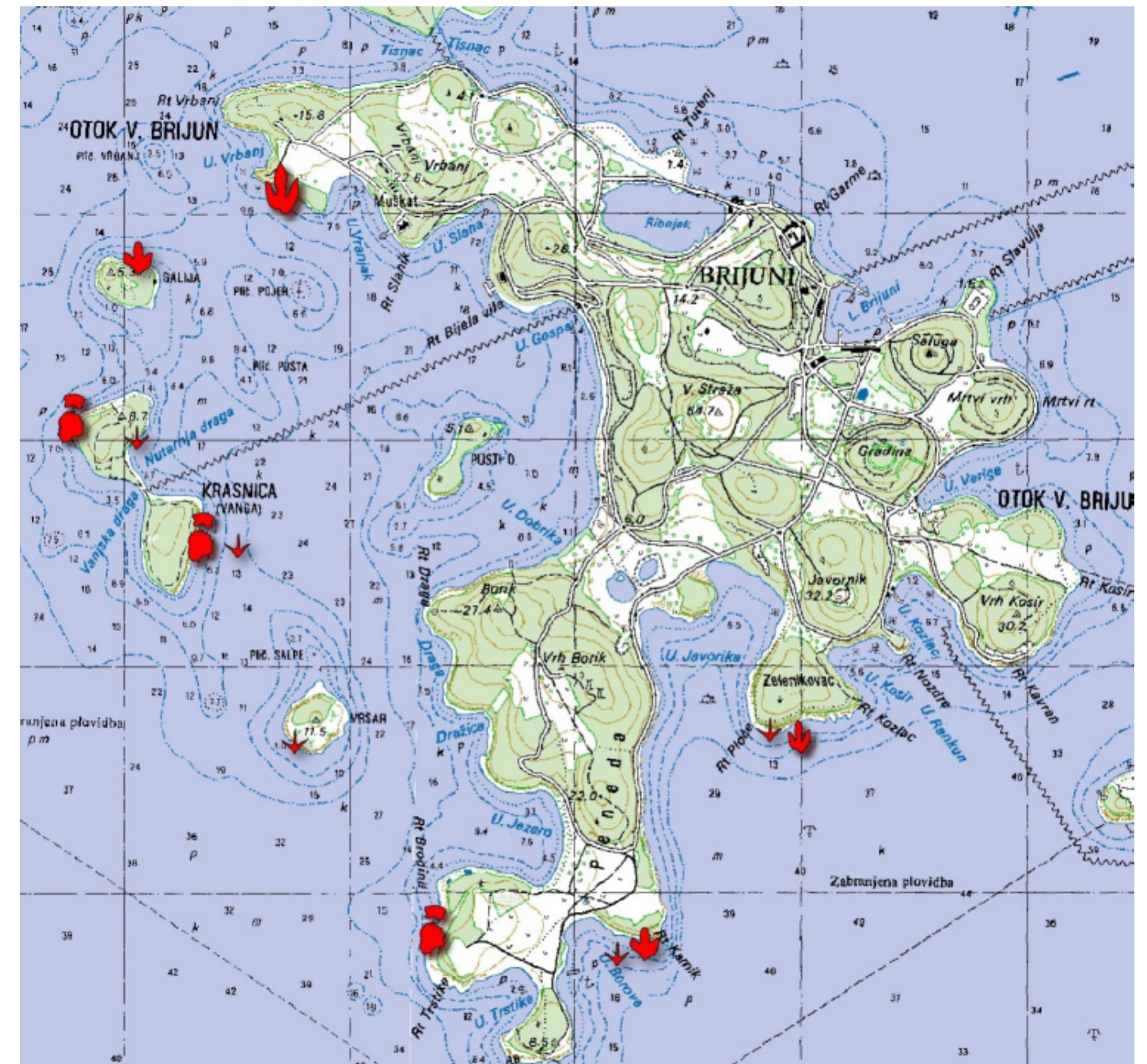
The oldest dinosaur site on Brijuni is located in late Barremian sediments within the Mali Brijun unit at Cape Pogledalo/Barban. Around sixty footprints were recorded, some forming trackways, while others are isolated. The footprints are tridactyl with long toes, occasionally preserving claw impressions (Fig. 28). Footprint lengths range from 30–40 cm. Based on morphology and dimensions, they are attributed to large theropod dinosaurs similar to allosaurids. The length of these large carnivores was estimated at 5–7.5 m, with a walking speed of 5–6 km/h. Although a high density of footprints was recorded at Cape Pogledalo/Barban, there are no preferred movement directions; footprints are oriented in almost all directions. The site contains tracks of several dozen individuals, some overlapping, indicating that dinosaurs passed through at different times. Different preservation degrees reflect substrate consistency (or water saturation). In 2012, a life-sized sculpture of a theropod dinosaur (Carnosauria) was installed at this site in collaboration between Brijuni NP and the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb.

The Ploče (Zelenikovac) site lies in late Albian sediments within the Crna unit. Footprints of small theropod dinosaurs were found, distributed on two stacked layers. Of about forty footprints, more than half form five clearly visible trackways. Some of these tridactyl prints are well preserved, with visible claw marks, typical of bipedal carnivorous dinosaurs (Fig. 28). Based on footprint size, these theropods were 3–4.5 m long, with estimated speeds of 5–9 km/h.

Besides the mentioned sites, individual footprints can be seen at the main pier of the Veli Brijun harbor, where a tridactyl footprint of a large theropod is visible on a transported (allochthonous) limestone block. Five isolated tridactyl theropod footprints from Cape Ploče are preserved in the museum.

In Brijuni NP, seven or eight sites have been confirmed. However, except for the sites mentioned above, others are inaccessible, either located within the strictest protection zone of the National Park (Vrsar site) or in military zones (southern Veli Brijun, Vanga, and Galija islets), where research is only allowed with permission.

A distinctive feature of the Brijuni sites is the high diversity of dinosaur footprint types within a small area (the park covers only 74.33 km²). Over 300 fossil tracks of medium-to-large theropods, small theropods, medium-sized ornithopods, small ornithopods, and medium-to-small sauropods have been found, making Brijuni one of the richest areas for dinosaur footprints in Croatia. During geological mapping, new locations with potential footprints were also identified. Almost all sites are on the coastline and may occasionally be exposed after storms or during extreme low tides, revealing previously hidden traces. However, most sites are in poor condition due to coastal erosion, flooding of track-bearing layers, and other damaging factors, making urgent protection measures necessary.



Slika 28: Lokaliteti s otiscima stopala dinosaura na otoku Veli Brijun.

Figure 28: Dinosaur footprint locations in the Brijuni National park.

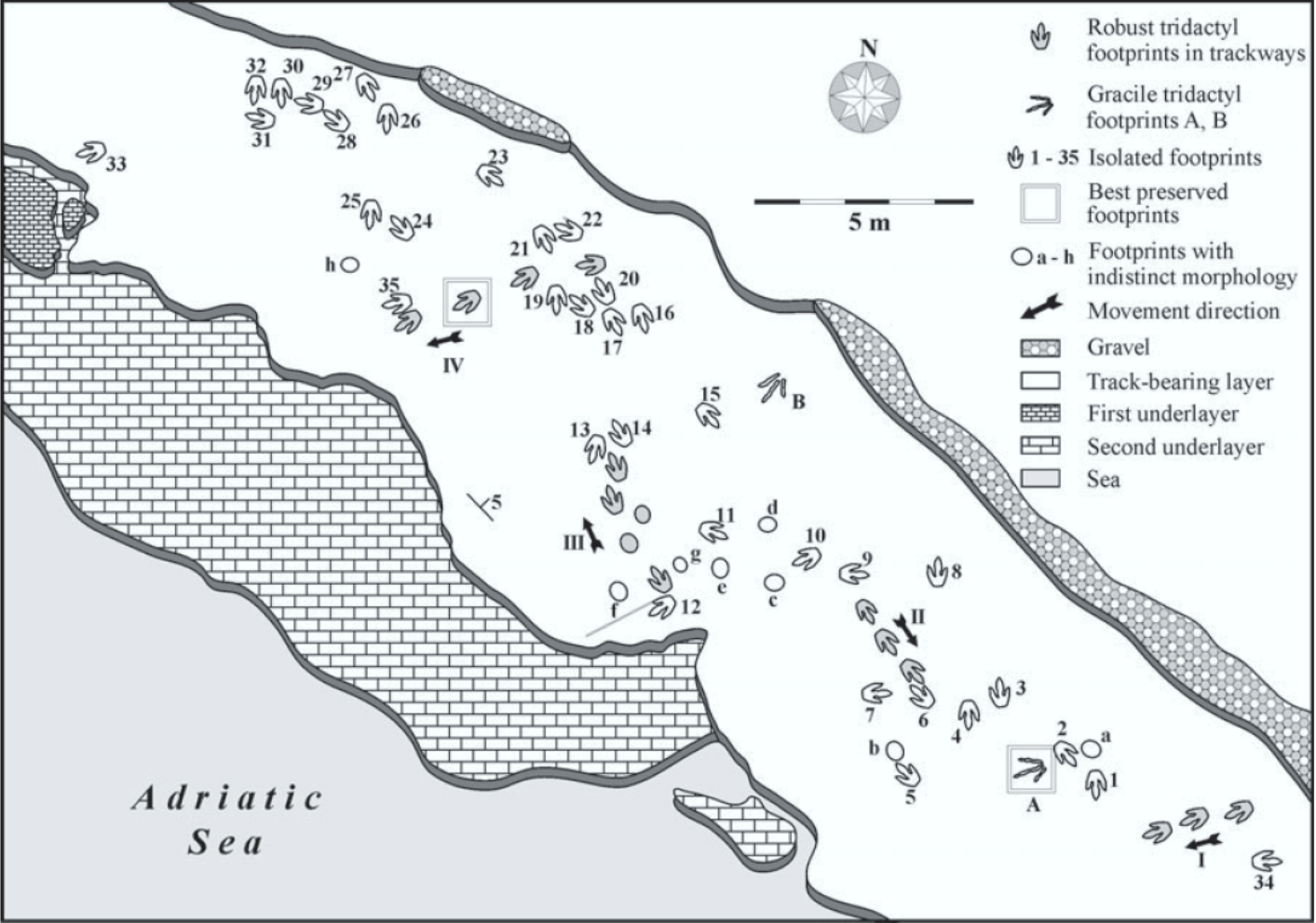


Slika 29: Otisak teropodnog dinosaura na rtu Pogledalo/Barban; autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga
Figure 29: Theropod dinosaur footprint from Pogledalo/Barban site; Photo: Aleksandar Mezga



Slika 30: Otisak teropodnog dinosaura s rta Ploče; autor fotografije Aleksandar Mezga
Figure 30: Theropod dinosaur footprint from Ploče: Photo: Aleksandar Mezga

Specifičnost brijunskih lokaliteta jest velik broj različitih tipova otisaka dinosaura na malom području (kopnena površina parka iznosi svega 74,33 km²). Ukupno je do sada pronađeno tristotinjak fosilnih tragova srednje velikih-velikih teropoda, malih teropoda, srednje velikih ornitopoda, malih ornitopoda i srednje velikih-malih sauropoda čineći tako Brijune jednim od najbogatijih područja s fosilnim tragovima dinosaura u Republici Hrvatskoj. Također, tijekom geološkog kartiranja otočja uočene su i nove lokacije s potencijalnim otiscima. Gotovo sva nalazišta su na samoj obalnoj liniji te se tako povremeno, nakon oluja ili za vrijeme velikih oseka, znaju otkriti dijelovi obale koji su inače nedostupni ili prekriveni pojedinim kamenim blokovima gdje se znaju pojavljivati novi tragovi koji nisu do sada uočeni. Međutim, većina nalazišta je u lošem stanju, upravo zbog erozije obale udarima valova, poplavljanjem slojne plohe s tragovima većinu godine i drugim štetnim utjecajima, stoga je nužno da se određene mjere zaštite provedu u što kraćem roku.

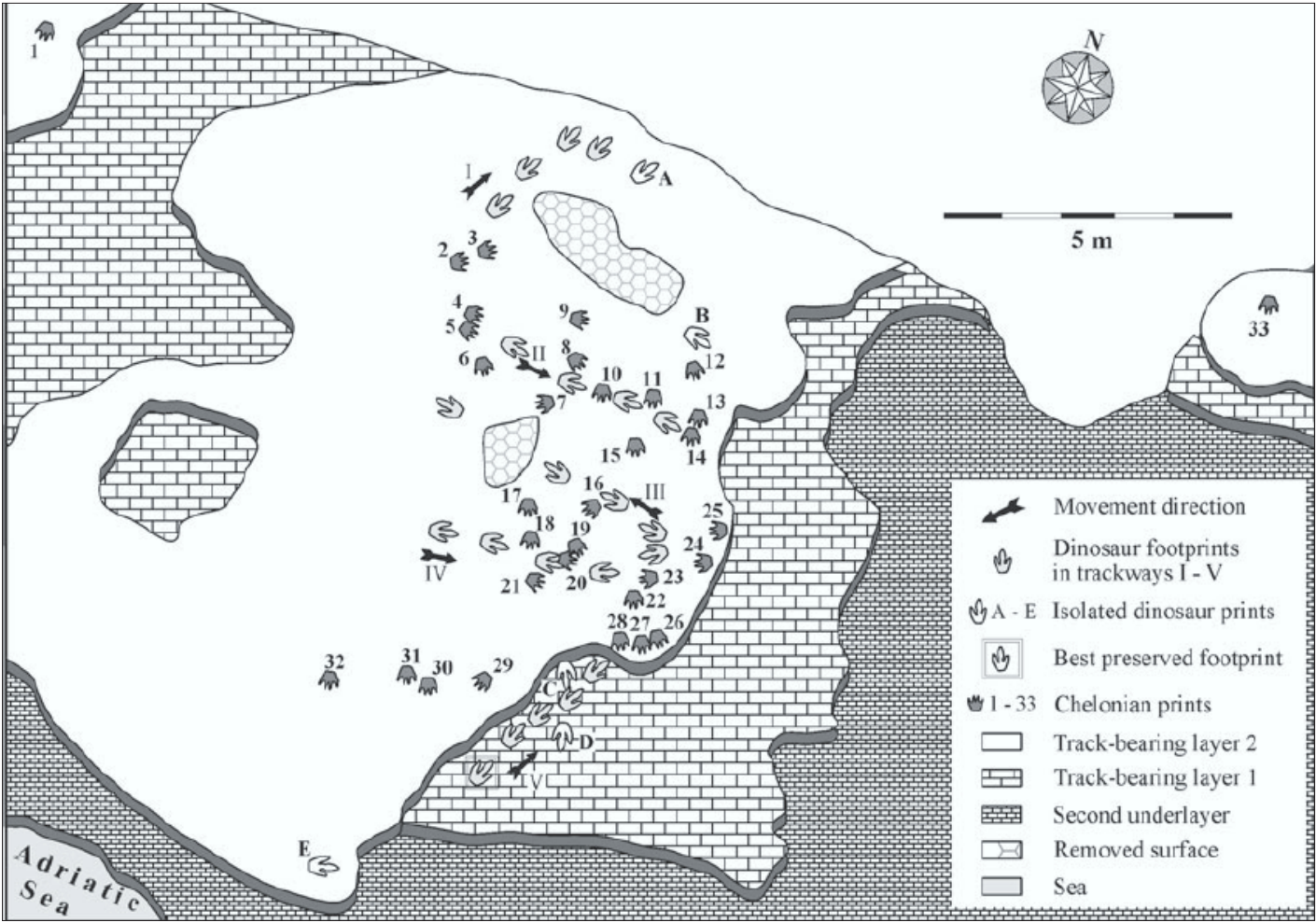


Slika 31: Karta nalazišta Pogledalo/Barban (preuzeto iz MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004).

Figure 31: Map of the Pogledalo/Barban fossil site (adapted from MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004).



Slika 32: Staza kretanja velikog teropodnog dinosaura na nalazištu Pogledalo/Barban, autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga
Figure 32: Trackway of a large theropod dinosaur at the Pogledalo/Barban fossil site; Photo by Aleksandar Mezga.



Slika 33: Karta nalazišta Ploče (preuzeto iz MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004).
Figure 33: Map of the Ploče site (adapted from MEZGA & BAJRAKTAREVIĆ, 2004).



Slika 34: Skulptura teropodnog dinosaura u prirodnoj veličini na nalazištu Pogledalo/Barban; autor fotografije: Nataša Sundara

Figure 34: Life-size sculpture of a theropod dinosaur at the Pogledalo/Barban site; Photo by Nataša Sundara.



Slika 35: Staza kretanja malenog, dvonožnog, teropodnog dinosaura na nalazištu Ploče; autor fotografije: Damir Pocrnić

Figure 35: Trackway of a small, bipedal, theropod dinosaur at the Ploče site; Photo by Damir Pocrnić.

TOČKA2: KAMENOLOM
KIRMENJAK

Nalazi otisaka sauropodnih dinosaura na AdCP uključuju broj-
na nalazišta iz razdoblja mlađeg alba i mlađeg cenomana.
Glavno obilježje sauropoda s AdCP je njihova manja veličina u
usporedbi s drugim svjetskim nalazištima, s dužinom stopala
koja rijetko prelazi 40 cm. Zasad su na AdCP zabilježene samo
staze usko- ili srednjetračnog tipa sauropoda s malo paralelnih
staza, a što bi upućivalo na zajedničko kretanje.

Nalazište otisaka stopala dinosaura smješteno u kamenolomu
‘Kirmenjak’, oko 2km južno od ceste Sv.Lovreč – Poreč, u blizini
sela Kirmenjak, predstavlja zasad najveći otkriveni lokalitet s
otiscima stopala dinosaura na AdCP (sl. 36). Izdanak s otisci-
ma smješten je na nekoć aktivnoj otkopnoj fronti kamenoloma
i prostire se na površini od oko 4000 m². Od otkrića nalazišta u
ljetu 2001. do danas je sačuvano oko 50% izdanka.



Slika 36: Slojna ploha s otiscima stopala dinosaura u kamenolomu
Kirmenjak. Gornji titon, gornja jura, starosti 145 milijuna godina, geo-
loški najstarije nalazište fosila dinosaura u Hrvatskoj, ujedno i s najvi-
še pronađenih otisaka; autor fotografije Aleksandar Mezga

STOP A2: KIRMENJAK QUARRY

Findings of sauropod dinosaur footprints on the AdCP include
numerous sites from the Late Albian and Late Cenomanian.
A distinctive feature of AdCP sauropods is their smaller size
compared to other global sites, with footprint lengths rarely ex-
ceeding 40 cm. So far, only narrow- or medium-gauge sauropod
trackways have been recorded on the AdCP, with few parallel
tracks, suggesting limited evidence of group movement.

The dinosaur footprint site located in the “Kirmenjak” quarry,
about 2 km south of the Sv. Lovreč–Poreč road near the village
of Kirmenjak, currently represents the largest discovered dino-
saur tracksite on the AdCP (Fig. 36). The track-bearing outcrop
is situated on a formerly active quarry face, covering an area of
approximately 4,000 m². Since the site’s discovery in the sum-
mer of 2001, about 50% of the outcrop has been preserved.

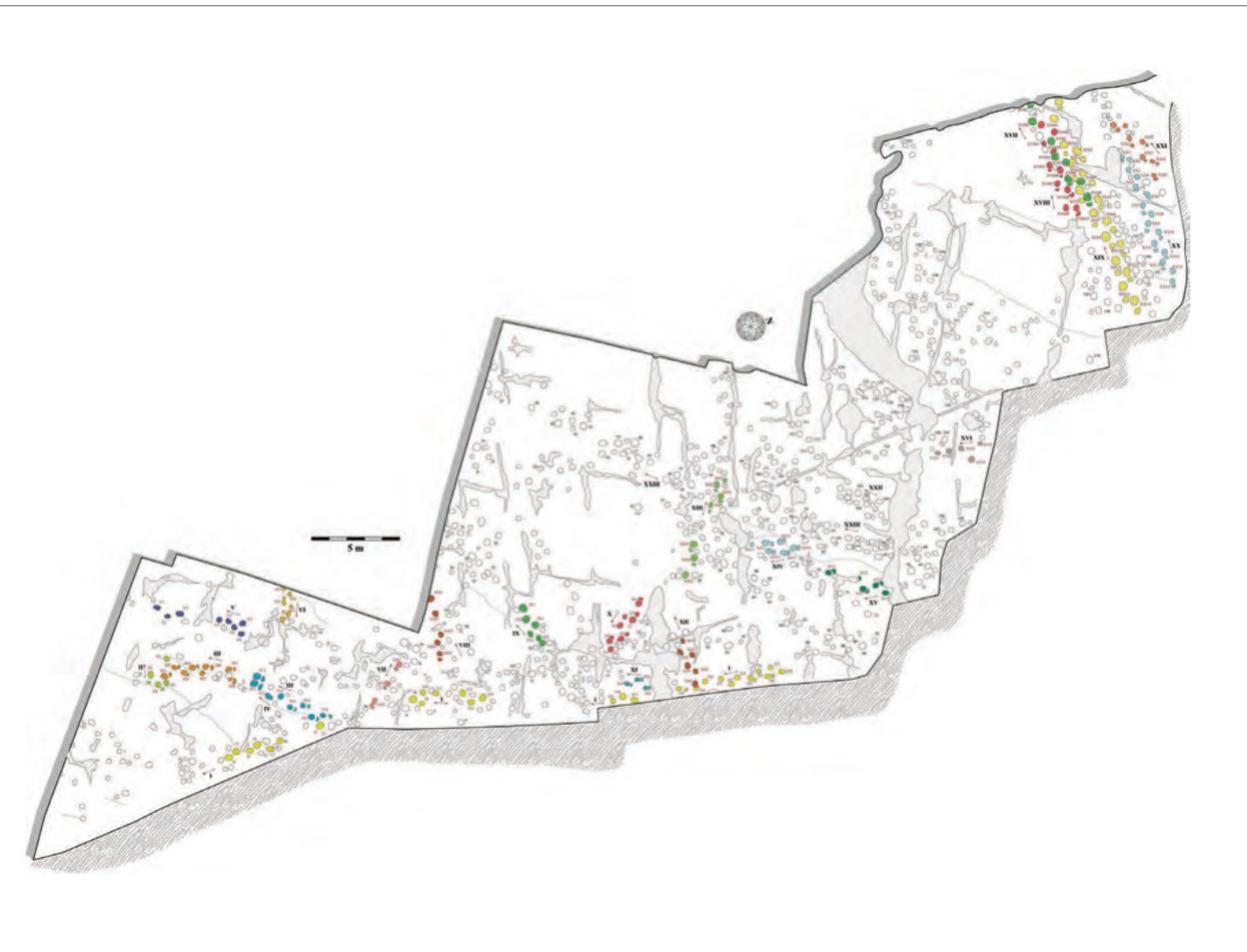
Figure 36: Outcrop with dinosaur footprints in Kirmenjak quarry.
Upper Tithonian, Late Jurassic, approximately 145 million years old,
the oldest dinosaur fossil site in Croatia, also with the highest number
of recorded footprints; photo by Aleksandar Mezga

Nalazište pripada donjem dijelu *Kirmenjak jedinice* tj. najdo-
njem dijelu druge istarske megasekvencije. Naslage u donjem
dijelu *Kirmenjak jedinice* ukazuju na prisutnost močvarnih oko-
liša koji predstavljaju izvorište za stvaranje *black pebble* breča
(VLAHOVIĆ 1999). Močvare se postupno zamjenjuju plitkom
zaštićenom lagunom okruženom širokim plimnim ravnica-
ma. Na tim su ravnica hodali dinosauri ostavljajući svoje otiske
stopala. Na izdnaku je ukupno pronađen 971 otisak stopala
dinosaur (sl. 37), od kojih 161 tvori 23 staze kretanja dok se
ostali nalaze odvojeno ili u grupi (MEZGA et al 2007). Potencijal
otkrivanja novih otisaka prilično je velik s obzirom na moguć-
nost napredovanja otkopne fronte dalje u brdo. Na izdanku su
otkrivena dva različita tipa otisaka stopala; veći kružnoeliptični
otisci i manji polukružni, potkovasti otisci. S obzirom na činje-
nicu da se oba tipa otiska pojavljuju u istim stazama može se
zaključiti da pripadaju istoj životinji. Na većini je otisaka vidljiv
nasip izdignutog substrata koji predstavlja vlažni sediment isti-
snut iz otiska težinom dinosaura. Takvi su nasipi obično izraže-
niji od samog otiska i čuvaju ga od erozije koja bi ga uništila.

The site belongs to the lower part of the Kirmenjak unit, i.e.,
the lowest part of the second Istrian megasequence. Sediments
in the lower Kirmenjak unit indicate the presence of marshy
environments, which formed the source of black pebble bre-
cias (VLAHOVIĆ, 1999). These marshes gradually gave way to a
shallow protected lagoon surrounded by broad tidal flats. Dino-
saurs walked on these flats, leaving their footprints.

A total of 971 dinosaur footprints have been documented on
the outcrop (Fig. 37), of which 161 form 23 trackways, while the
remaining prints occur individually or in groups (MEZGA et al.,
2007). The potential for discovering new footprints is consid-
erable, given the possibility of further quarry face progression
uphill.

Two different types of footprints were identified on the outcrop:
larger circular-elliptical prints and smaller semicircular, horse-
shoe-shaped prints. Since both types appear in the same track-
ways, they likely belong to the same animal. Most footprints



Slika 37: Detaljna ihnološka karta nalazišta Kirmenjak preuzeto iz
MEZGA et.al. (2007)

Figure 37: Detailed map of footprints in Kirmenjak quarry

S obzirom na morfologiju i veličinu može se zaključiti da svi otisci na izdanku pripadaju istoj vrsti dinosaura. Promatrajući razlike u obliku otisaka, razliku u veličini kao i smještaj, te udaljenost od središnjih osi staza, možemo zaključiti da su tragove utisnule životinje koje su se kretale četveronoške. Manji polukružni otisci tragovi su prednjih stopala, dok su veći, kružno-eliptični otisci, tragovi stražnjih stopala (sl. 38). Na temelju njihove morfologije otisci su pripisani sauropodnim dinosaurima (sl. 39). Svi su otisci relativno malih dubina (nekoliko cm) u usporedbi s ostalim dimenzijama. Stupanj sačuvanosti otisaka daleko je od idealnog, te je na izdanku teško pronaći otisak jasno izražene morfologije gdje bi bili vidljivi i otisci prstiju. Dodatnu poteškoću stvara i pokrovni sediment koji u velikom broju slučajeva još uvijek ispunjava otiske. Otisci iz Kirmenjaka relativno su mali kada ih se uspoređuje s prosječnim dimenzijama mlađejurskih otisaka sauropoda s drugih svjetskih nalazišta, uzmemo li u obzir prosječnu dužinu njihovih stražnjih stopala od 34.5 cm. Otisci prednjih stopala su polukružnog, polumjesečastog oblika, širi nego duži, s dužom osi približno okomitom na os staze. Dužina im se kreće u rasponu 5.5 – 26.5 cm, a širina u rasponu od 15 – 29 cm, što ukazuje na to da su širi nego duži. Razlog tome je urušavanje rubova otisaka koje se uglavnom zbiva anteroposteriornom, pa su zbog toga otisci prednjih stopala gotovo u pravilu deformirani po dužini. Otisci stražnjih stopala su ovalnog oblika, izduženi anteroposteriornom sa širim anteriornim dijelom, dok je otisak ‘pete’ uži. Dužine stražnjih otisaka kreću se u rasponu 23–52 cm, a širine u rasponu 18.5–43 cm. Ni na jednom od otiska stražnjeg stopala nisu jasno vidljivi otisci prstiju.



Slika 38: Slojna ploha s otiscima stopala dinosaura u kamenolomu Kirmenjak; autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga

Figure 38: A pair of sauropod footprints from the Kirmenjak quarry. The large circular print represents the hind foot, and the smaller semicircular print represents the fore foot. Photo by: Aleksandar Mezga

display a raised rim of substrate, representing wet sediment pushed out by the dinosaur’s weight. These rims are usually more pronounced than the print itself, protecting it from erosion.

Based on morphology and size, all footprints on the outcrop are attributed to the same dinosaur species. Observing differences in print shape and size, their arrangement, and distance from the central axes of the trackways, it is inferred that the tracks were made by quadrupedal animals. The smaller semicircular prints are from the forefeet, while the larger circular-elliptical prints are from the hind feet (Fig. 38). Based on their morphology, the footprints are attributed to sauropod dinosaurs (Fig. 39). All prints are relatively shallow (a few centimeters) compared to their overall dimensions. Preservation quality is far from ideal, and it is difficult to find footprints with clearly visible morphology and toe impressions. The overlying sediment, which often still fills the prints, adds further difficulty.

Kirmenjak footprints are relatively small compared to average dimensions of Late Jurassic sauropod tracks from other global sites, with the average length of hind footprints being 34.5 cm. Forefoot prints are semicircular or crescent-shaped, wider than long, with the long axis approximately perpendicular to the trackway axis. Their length ranges from 5.5 to 26.5 cm, and width from 15 to 29 cm, indicating they are wider than long. This is due to collapse of the print edges, usually occurring anteroposteriorly, deforming forefoot prints along their length.



Slika 39: Otiske stopala u Kirmenjaku ostavili su sauropodni dinosauri poput ovih (crtež D. Martin).

Figure 39. Footprints on Kirmenjak site were left by sauropod dinosaurs like these (drawing by D. Martin).

Na izdanku su prepoznate 23 staze kretanja, ali i brojne skupine otisaka stopala u kojima se isprepliću staze nekoliko jedinki gdje se ne može jasno odrediti koji otisak pripada kojoj životinji. Staze kretanja na sjevernom dijelu nalazišta posebno su zanimljive zbog činjenice da su blizu jedna drugoj, paralelne i približno istog smjera. Te su staze bolje očuvane od ostalih i veće dubine. Na temelju istog stupnja sačuvanja i istih smjerova, može se pretpostaviti da su se jedinke zajedno kretale ovim područjem. Sve staze u Kirmenjaku uskotračnog su tipa, gdje unutarnja širina staze rijetko prelazi 10 cm. Shodno tome može se zaključiti da je otiske u Kirmenjaku ostavio diplodocidni tip sauropoda.

S obzirom na izračunate vrijednosti najmanji su sauropodi u Kirmenjaku bili dugi oko 7.5 metara, dok su oni najveći bile dužine oko 14.5 metara. Veličina sauropoda iz Kirmenjaka manja je od veličina drugih mlađejurskih sauropodnih ‘titana’ diljem svijeta. To se može objasniti prisutnošću nove vrste sauropodnih dinosaura ili manjim vrstama većih rodova, jer ni sve vrste pojedinih rodova nisu iste veličine. Brzine kretanja sauropoda iz Kirmenjaka kreću se u rasponu između 0.5 i 2.5 km/h, što ne predstavlja nikakvo iznenađenje u odnosu na izmjerene brzine sauropoda s ostalih svjetskih nalazišta. To su brzine kojima su se sauropodi uobičajeno kretali.

Hindfoot prints are oval, elongated anteroposteriorly, with a broader anterior portion and a narrower “heel” impression. Lengths range from 23–52 cm, widths from 18.5–43 cm, and no toe impressions are clearly visible.

The outcrop preserves 23 trackways and numerous groups of footprints where tracks of several individuals intersect, making it difficult to assign prints to specific animals. Trackways in the northern part of the site are especially interesting, being close together, parallel, and oriented in roughly the same direction. These tracks are better preserved and deeper than others. Based on similar preservation and orientation, it is likely that the animals moved together through this area.

All Kirmenjak trackways are narrow-gauge, with inner trackway widths rarely exceeding 10 cm. Therefore, it is concluded that the tracks were made by diplodocid-type sauropods. Calculated body lengths indicate the smallest sauropods at Kirmenjak were approximately 7.5 m long, while the largest reached about 14.5 m. Sauropods from Kirmenjak are smaller than other Late Jurassic “titan” sauropods worldwide. This may indicate the presence of a new sauropod species or smaller representatives of larger genera, as not all species within a genus are the same size.

Estimated movement speeds of Kirmenjak sauropods range between 0.5 and 2.5 km/h, which aligns with typical speeds measured for sauropods at other global sites. These speeds reflect their usual walking pace.

TOČKA 3: AUTOKAMP
„SOLARIS“

Na nalazištu dinosaura smještenom unutar autokampa “Solaris” sjeverno od Poreča pronađeni su mnogobrojni tropsti otisci dvonožnih mesojednih dinosaura kao i otisci četveronožnih biljojednih dinosaura. Pronađeni otisci stopala dinosaura smješteni su unutar kampa na dva odvojena izdanka iste geološke starosti koji vjerojatno predstavljaju i istu slojnu plohu.

Prvi je izdanak smješten unutar kampa na površini dugoj 33 i širokoj 13 metara (sl. 40). Na njemu je pronađeno više od 500 pojedinačnih otisaka stopala, kao i brojne staze kretanja (sl. 41). Cijela je površina izdanka pokrivena otiscima i sedimentnim strukturama.

Drugi izdanak nalazi se na samoj obali kampa, dugačak je 35, a širok 8 metara. Starost sedimenta u kojem su pronađeni otisci određena je na temelju mikrofosila kao mlađi alb što znači da su otisci dinosaura nastali prije otprilike 100 milijuna godina.



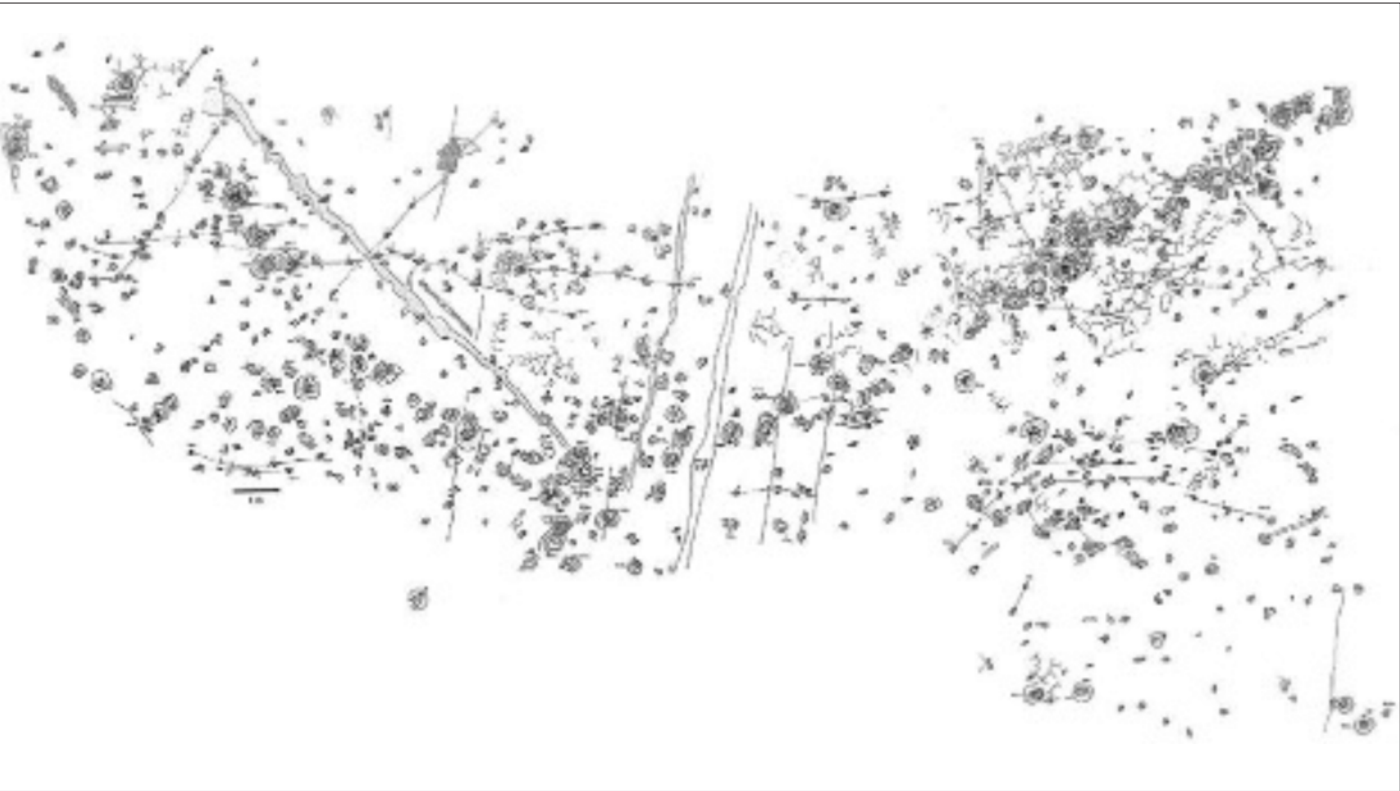
Slika 40: Nalazište otisaka stopala dinosaura u autokampu Solaris; autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga

STOP 3. AUTOCAMP
„SOLARIS“

At the dinosaur site located within the “Solaris” campsite north of Poreč, numerous tridactyl footprints of bipedal carnivorous dinosaurs, as well as footprints of quadrupedal herbivorous dinosaurs, have been discovered. The dinosaur footprints are situated within the campsite on two separate outcrops of the same geological age, which likely represent the same bedding surface.

The first outcrop is located within the campsite, measuring 33 meters long and 13 meters wide (Fig. 40). Over 500 individual footprints and numerous trackways have been found on it (Fig. 41). The entire outcrop surface is covered with footprints and sedimentary structures.

Figure 40: Dinosaur footprint site at Solaris campsite
Photo by: Aleksandar Mezga



Slika 41: Slojna ploha s otiscima stopala dinosaura u kamenolomu Kirmenjak.

Figure 41: Ichnological map of the dinosaur footprint site at the „Solaris“ campsite (DALLA VECCHIA & TARLAO 2000)

Otisci s ovih izdanaka mogu se podijeliti u dvije glavne grupe: tridaktilni, mezaksonični otisci i netridaktilni otisci. Uzimajući u obzir geološku starost i opću morfologiju, može se zaključiti da tridaktilni otisci pripadaju dvonožnim dinosaurima (sl. 42). Njihovi se otisci na nalazištu pojavljuju u velikom broju staza što je od posebne važnosti jer je na temelju takvih nalaza moguće vjerno interpretirati način kretanja tih životinja i njihove brzine. Mnogi se tridaktilni otisci nalaze i zasebno, odvojeni od drugih. Netridaktilni otisci su predstavljeni s dva morfološka tipa: polumjesečastim, potkovastim oblicima i ovalnim, izduženim oblicima. Takva opća morfologija ukazuje na to da je riječ o prednjim i stražnjim otiscima sauropoda, četveronožnih dinosaura biljojeda (sl. 43). Na nalazištu je sačuvana jedna staza s takvim otiscima, koja je poslužila u rekonstrukciji kretanja dinosaura koji je ostavio otiske.

Mlađi alb je razdoblje tijekom kojeg su dinosauri ostavili najistaknutije dokaze o svojoj prisutnosti na istarskom dijelu Jadransko-dinaridske karbonatne platforme. Nalazište u autokampu ‘Solaris’ od posebnog je značaja jer su na njemu sačuvane stotine otisaka i staze dvonožnih dinosaura te deseci otisaka četveronožnih dinosaura. Većina tridaktilnih otisaka pripada teropodima, dinosaurima mesojedima. Ti su se dvonožni dinosauri na ovom nalazištu kretali pravocrtno ili u blago valovitim pravcima relativno brzim hodom. Sauropodi s ovog nalazišta relativno su male veličine, a kretali su se vrlo sporim hodom. Njihovi otisci pripadaju novoj sauropodnoj ihnovrsti – *Titanosaurimanus nana*. Smjerovi kretanja dinosaura na ovom

The second outcrop is located at the shoreline of the campsite, measuring 35 meters long and 8 meters wide. The age of the sediment in which the footprints were found has been determined based on microfossils as Late Albian, meaning the dinosaur footprints date back approximately 100 million years.

The footprints on these outcrops can be divided into two main groups: tridactyl, mesaxononic prints, and non-tridactyl prints. Considering the geological age and overall morphology, the tridactyl prints are attributed to bipedal dinosaurs (Fig. 42). These footprints appear in numerous trackways, which is particularly important, as such evidence allows reliable interpretation of the animals’ locomotion and speed. Many tridactyl footprints are also found individually, separated from others.

Non-tridactyl prints are represented by two morphological types: crescent-shaped, horseshoe-like prints, and oval, elongated prints. This general morphology indicates that they are fore- and hind-foot prints of sauropods, quadrupedal herbivorous dinosaurs (Fig. 43). One trackway with such footprints has been preserved at the site, which served for reconstructing the locomotion of the dinosaur that made the tracks.

The Late Albian was the period during which dinosaurs left the most prominent evidence of their presence on the Istrian part of the Adriatic-Dinaric carbonate platform. The campsite ‘Solaris’ site is of special significance because it preserves hundreds of footprints and trackways of bipedal dinosaurs, as well as

nalazištu ukazuju na to da je topografija terena utjecala na njihovo kretanje, kako teropoda tako i sauropoda. Neke sedimentološke karakteristike kao i analize načina kretanja i brzina ukazuju na to da su dinosauri samo prolazili kroz područje u kojem su sačuvani otisci, bez zaustavljanja. Mladealbska ihnozajednica u Istri slična je ihnozajednici pronađenoj u Teksasu, SAD, ali je specifična zbog svoje minijaturizacije. Neuobičajeno mala veličina sauropodnih dinosaura, zajedno s ekstremno rijetkim nalazima velikih predatora (tj. velikih teropoda) i paleogeografski okvir, ukazuju na to da je moguće riječ o otočnoj ihnozajednici (DALLA VECCHIA & TARLAO 2000).

dozens of footprints of quadrupedal dinosaurs. Most tridactyl prints belong to theropods, carnivorous dinosaurs. These bipedal dinosaurs at the site moved in straight or slightly curved paths at a relatively fast walking pace.

Sauropods at this site were relatively small and moved very slowly. Their footprints belong to a new sauropod ichnospecies – *Titanosaurimanus nana*. The directions of dinosaur movement at this site indicate that the topography influenced their locomotion, both for theropods and sauropods. Some sedimentological features, as well as analyses of locomotion and speed, suggest that the dinosaurs were merely passing through the area where the footprints were preserved, without stopping.

The Late Albian ichnocoenosis in Istria is similar to the ichnocoenosis found in Texas, USA, but is distinctive due to its miniaturization. The unusually small size of the sauropods, combined with the extreme rarity of large predators (i.e., large theropods) and the paleogeographic context, suggests that this may represent an insular ichnocoenosis (DALLA VECCHIA & TARLAO, 2000).



Slika 42: Troprsti otisak dvonožnog dinosaura teropoda iz autokampa Solaris; autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga
Figure 42: Three-toed footprint of a two-legged theropod dinosaur from Solaris Camp; Photo by: Aleksandar Mezga



Slika 43: Otisak četveronožnog dinosaura sauropoda iz autokampa Solaris; autor fotografije: Aleksandar Mezga
Figure 43: Footprint of a four-legged Sauropod dinosaur from Solaris Camp ; Photo by: Aleksandar Mezga

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Slika 44: Otisci sauropodnih dinosaura na nalazištu u uvali Palud pored Rovinja, mladi otriv, starija kreda, starosti oko 130 milijuna godina; autor fotografije: Irina Žeger Pleše

Figure 44: Sauropod dinosaur footprints at the site in Palud Cove near Rovinj, Late Hauterivian, Early Cretaceous, approximately 130 million years old; photo by Irina Žeger Pleše

SPONZORI - SPONZORS:



JANAF D.O.O., ZAGREB



ISTARSKA ŽUPANIJA, UPRAVNI ODJEL ZA TURIZAM



OPĆINA MEDULIN



JAMA BAREDINE



