

## **Geotopes in Bulgaria Connected with the Medieval Myth of Krali Marko**

KOSTOV, K., Geological Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

The aim of presented work is to introduce some Bulgarian geotopes of geomytological interest. These one are connected with the Medieval legends about the Balkan hero Krali Marko (Marko Kraveviti). It is necessary to point out that Marko was a historical person. The spatial distribution on the Balkan countries of Geotopes connected with the myth about his feats is of great interest for Ethnography, History, Toponymy and of course Geology.

Such Geotopes in Bulgaria are for example:

- The impressive Markova Dupka rock bridge in the "Central Balkan" National Park. This karst phenomena is a result of a strike with the Marko's mace;
- The upright stones near the village of Mechka, Rouse District, North Bulgaria. Krali Marko lifted the biggest stone (12x7x6 m) with one hand;
- The karst valley of Chernelka River, Pleven District, North Bulgaria (protected Geotope since 1969). Here are located landmarks like "Raztsepeniat Kamak (The Split Stone)" where Marko tried the sharpness of his sword. The footmark of his flying horse Sharkolia is preserved in the "Tzarjuva Dupka" Cave;

Such "geomorphic" effect of the mythical heroes activity can be observe in another places of the World: "Breche de Roland" in the Central Pyrenees for example.

There is no doubt that there are some "Marko's" Geotopes in another Balkan countries: the rock phenomena "Markovi Kouli (Marko's Towers) near the town of Prilep, for example. Their future inventarization and evaluation will lead to interesting results about the connection between the historical facts, the myth and the geoenvironment.