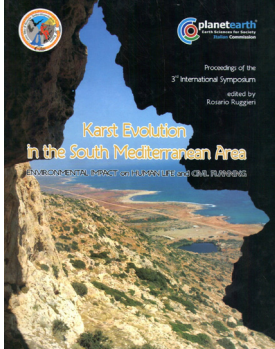


Rosario Ruggeri (editor) 2010

Karst Evolution in the South Mediterranean Area – Environmental Impact on Human Life and Civil Planning

Speleologia Iblea, 14



Mediterranean karst probably is the most known and studied in world. Here – precisely in the north of the Adriatic Sea - the Classical Karst is found, a region shared by Italy and Slovenia from where these phenomena have taken their name.

Actually, many of the most famous karst areas in the world face the North Mediterranean Sea, mainly in Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Serbia and Greece. Conversely the karst regions of the eastern and southern coast are much less known and investigated, despite there cover important areas and rich in beautiful landforms.

The proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on “Karst Evolution in the South Mediterranean Area – Environmental Impact on Human Life and Civil Planning”, published by the Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche (Ragusa, Sicily), supplies a valid contribution reducing this lack of knowledge, thanks to a large number of interesting papers, which describe, often for the first time, many peculiar and unexpected karst areas. There is a wide range of morphological situations described in these papers: from coastal to mountain karsts. A particular attention is given to the relationships between karst landscape and human impact.

Currently most of these areas are subject to arid or semiarid climate, but many geological and morphological evidences suggest an origin in a more humid environment, so they represent a promising field of study in order to understand the evolution of climate in the southern Mediterranean region and in the whole of North Africa.

In other words, the papers collected in this volume open a new window on areas not rightly considered by the karst scientific community and in my opinion all karst researchers should be grateful to the editors of this nice and carefully edited volume.

Leonardo Piccini