Bulgaria is one of the European countries with rich and varied karst formations and landmarks, among which the numerous caves, precipices and underground basins are most attractive and interesting from faunistic point of view. Although the speleology in Bulgaria, compared to the other European countries, has a comparatively short, only 90-year history, today it is among the countries with well-studied and mapped caves and cave fauna. Until now about 5100 caves have been registered in this country, among which 65 are over 1000 m long, and 260 are investigated and mapped in detail. In a great number of them varied and unique mostly endemic cave inhabitants are discovered.

Europe according to the extent of exploration and biodiversity of its cave fauna.

The book begins with a short historical survey of the investigations on the caves and cave fauna in Bulgaria, which started almost at once after the Liberation of the country from Turkish yoke. The historical part is illustrated with photographs of the first Bulgarian speleologists and participants in speleological expeditions, and it has a great documentary value. The next chapters consider in more details the international relations and participations of Bulgarian speleologists in the national and some international cave expeditions, the archaeological, palaeontological, mineralogical, hydrogeological and other investigations in the Bulgarian caves, which had been scattered and published in a great number of miscellaneous journals and books.

Indisputably, of greatest interest to the Bulgarian and foreign zoologists is the chapter, dedicated to the life in the Bulgarian caves and especially to the rich and varied cave fauna, and written by the outstanding Bulgarian zoologist and speleologist Dr. Petar Beron. From the time of the first biospeleological scientific publication by the Hungarian researcher Frivaldszky (1879) to 2005 over 530 scientific papers, catalogues,