



Biospeleology or Biospeology?

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Abstract. This article is a discussion on the scientific terminology in use. Biospeleology (in Romanian, "biospeleologie"), also known as cave biology, is a branch of biology dedicated to the study of organisms that live in caves and are collectively referred to as troglifaunal. In Romanian language, the term was simplified at Racoviță's suggestion to "biospeologie". He said "biospeleologie" is a rather long word and "biospeologie" sounds better. This simplification was later translated to English as "biospeology" by the younger disciples of Racoviță and this way it spread worldwide. However, it is preferable to use the term "biospeleology", because it is the original and the most used form.

Key words: biospeology, biospeleology, Racovitza, terminology.

Biospeleology was founded as science in 1907, when Emil Racoviță published his work "Essai sur les problèmes biospéologiques" ("Essay on biospeleological problems"). He was the founder of the first speleological institute in the world, founded in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) (Racoviță 1926; Racoviță 2019; Nastase-Bucur & Moldovan 2016).

Speleology (in Romanian, "speleologie"), in current terms, is the activity of identifying, exploring, studying, mapping and visiting underground locations (caves, caverns). Biospeleology (in Romanian, "biospeleologie"), also known as cave biology, is a branch of biology dedicated to the study of organisms that live in caves and are collectively referred to as troglifaunal (Juberthie 2005).

In Romanian, the term was simplified at Racoviță's suggestion to "biospeologie". He said "biospeleologie" is a rather long word and "biospeologie" sounds better (in French: "biospéologie", Motas 1964). This simplification was later translated to English as "biospeology" by the younger disciples of Racoviță and this way it spread worldwide (Vandel 1965; Ueno 1993).

However, it is preferable to use the term "biospeleology", because it is the original and the most used form.

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