

Antarktida (*Antarctica*)

Forthcoming monography in Czech. Book Preview.

In late 2012, the Academia Publishing House, Centre of Joint Activities of the Czech Academy of Science - Prague, respectively, is going to issue the first Czech monograph on Antarctica. Several institutions and team members participated in preparation of the monograph. Among them, Faculty of Science at the Masaryk University (Brno), Charles University (Prague), University of South Bohemia (České Budějovice), Palacký University (Olomouc), Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Science (Třeboň), Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics (Liběchov, Prague), Czech Geological Survey (Prague), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Czechoslovak Ocean Shipping Company should be mentioned. In the monography, the authors and co-authors capitalized their knowledge and experience from a number of Antarctic expeditions not only to the Czech scientific station on the James Ross Island (Antarctic Peninsula region) but also from participation in some American, German, Belgian and New Zealand Antarctic research programs.

The main objective of team of authors was to give a reader complex professional information on the white continent. The text of monography is, therefore, professionally written, but still friendly to a general public. The content of the book is divided into several sections.

Introductory section involves general information about Antarctica and starts with comprehensive overview of the physical-geographical conditions in Antarctica (relief, glaciation, Antarctic islands, climate). The section continues with a description of the geological evolution and development of glaciation. Several topics focused on the life forms on the continent (cyanobacteria and algae, lichens, mosses, flowering plants, invertebrates and birds) and in the sea (bacteria and viruses, algae, zooplankton, invertebrates, fishes, pinnipeds and cetaceans) are presented in this section as well.

The second section contains information on the history of exploration of Antarctica as well as relation of a man to Antarctica. Discovery of the continent, living and working on it and its legal system are presented there. The third section of the book focuses on the Czech Antarctic activities. Attention is paid to the construction of Czech Antarctic scientific station at the James Ross Island, exploration of neighbouring ecosystems and the first results of the Czech research programmes associated with the station. Numerous information about the geological, geomorphological and paleontological, climate and glaciological research are given in popular but still scientific form. At the end of this section, exhaustive information on recent biological research, focused on the biodiversity of cyanobacteria and algae, fungi, lichens and mosses and the monitoring of potential impacts of climate change on Antarctic vegetation is reported. The final part of this section brings the results of ornithological research.

Writing and publication of this comprehensive book is the first achievement of this kind in the Czechoslovak and Czech literature.

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