

LITERATURE

Lóczy, D. (ed.): *Landscapes and Landforms of Hungary*. Springer International Publishing. 2015. Cham, 294 p.

Within the „World Geomorphological Landscapes” series a brand new title appeared on the early spring of 2015. This series aims to introduce landforms of particular countries, their assemblages and the stages of their development all over the world. Right after the grandiose and impressive countries of India, Brazil, Spain, Namibia, France and South Africa the seventh volume is about Hungary.

The volume is dedicated to the 60th birthday of the editor Dénes Lóczy by the authors. Several books at Springer edited by him proved that he is admitted as an expert of geomorphology on an international level.

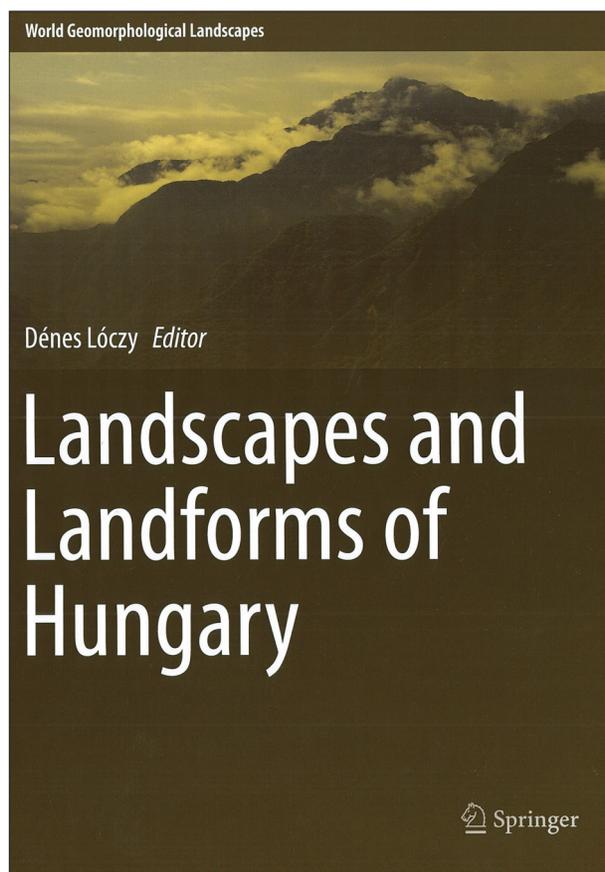
He has organised and controlled the joint work of forty four individual authors to create this spectacular and coherent opus.

The volume is divided to three main parts. The first part presents the background information of the whole country including geology, tectonics, climate and hydrology. Also this part guides the reader through the landscape evolution stages during hundreds of millions of years. This part is authored by the well known experts of Hungarian geosciences as János HAAS, Krisztina SEBE, Gábor CSILLAG and the editor himself.

The second, main part contains the descriptions of the separate landforms. As the editor draws these sites are just a selection from the possibilities without completeness since Hungary has a very diverse and colourful landscape structure. Altogether 26 individual landforms are presented by the experts of the given area. Among others the phenomena and results of karst development, volcanism, fluvial geomorphology, alkalinity and anthropogenic effects are introduced and discussed through the most famous individual example of them in Hungary.

Even though each chapter exceeds the highest scientific level they are clear and interesting also for readers without scientific background. The volume takes special emphasis on visualisation each chapter contains photos for a better illustration of the topic. Most of them also have well organised and informative (geomorphological) maps, and figures. The extent of the chapters varies in a wide range but all of them are adequate for a brief but proper description of the form. Each chapter follows the same structure of the most widespread scientific papers with introduction at the beginning and conclusion at the end.

The third part is about the geoheritage issue and its appearance in Hungary. This chapter briefly describes among others the national nature conservation policy, the National Parks and the



geoparks. Finally, as a practical information the description of the itineraries (countrywide blue tour and Rockenbauer blue tour) are also included in this chapter. That is why it could be a practical tool for supporting geosite propagation for families, classes or even for professional hikers.

In this way this volume is more than a simple field guide, it also tries to present the root cause in the backstage. That is why it would be a useful handbook also for students studying geomorphology. On the other hand, the straightforward but readable style supplemented with the high quality colourful figures, maps and photos make the volume enjoyable for the man in the street too. Anyway, the most useful application of the volume would be reading the related paragraph during a field trip and finding the discussed details in their natural forms. However, the A4 shape and

the very attractive hardcover makes the volume less useful in the field suggesting that this book can not be touched by dusty or even dirty hands.

The price also makes the book untouchable because it can be ordered from the Springer shop for 139.00 EUR. The price of the e-book format is unknown at the moment, but we are not quite sure whether the above mentioned figures and maps will be as perfect in the digital version as they are in the hardcopy. Almost 140 EUR is quite a pretty sum especially for a Hungarian student even though the volume is fantastic. We really do not know if this book shall be profitable for the publisher but we should be grateful for the possibility to have such an amazing collection of the miraculous Hungarian landscapes.

GERGELY JAKAB and ZOLTÁN SZALAI