

THE ORLJA RIVER – MORPHOLOGICAL AND POTAMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

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The Orlja river belongs to the hydrographic system of Krivaja River in its upper flow from the left side, in the Crnoriječka plateau and Zvijezda mountain. The rainwaters from mountainous hillsides are mostly surface drained in the Orlja river and, to a lesser extent, infiltrated through carbonate rocks, into a shallow karstic Crnoriječka plateau, where an underground bifurcation of the karstic swallow hole waters is conducted directly in Krivaja, about 4 km downstream of the Olovo and indirectly by the Orlja river, which ends in the Hočevica river, the first rank Krivaja's tributary. Considering the above, Orlja is Krivaja's tributary of the second rank.

The Orlja river belongs to constant flows, whose valley is dissected into very deep carbonate canyon valley, which has all characteristics of the gorge rivers. In some places the deep, convex valley slopes endings are interconnecting, and thus indicates that morphological evolution of underground closed flow; swallow holes, through the collapsed roof opening, in the open, overhead, hydrographic system. The Orlja river valley is unique morphological unit, which, from a normal river valley in the upper flow evolve into the canyon valley and ends with a stepwise riverbed with numerous waterfalls, that local people refers to as Skokovi.

Key words: *Orlja, valley, talweg, profile, morphological evolution, swallow hole, hydrographic system, gorge, bifurcation, waterfalls, evorsion potholes, waterfalls – Skokovi.*