

- the overlying Priesila Suite represented by the lava flows of hornblende-pyroxene andesites. Because of contact with water, the lava flows on the SW slope of the stratovolcano are brecciated, glassy and accompanied by hyaloclastite breccia, redeposited hyaloclastites and epiclastic facies development.

#### Pannonian

In the west, the brackish sediments of Pannonian age are represented by the Ivánka Formation composed of pelites and sands of variable grain size. Most Pannonian sediments north-east of the Nová Dedina occur as a fresh-water, clayey, but also sandy facies with coaly clay and coal intercalations. Typical features are coalified vegetal remnants.

In the south-west, the Ivánka Formation is overlain by the zone F sediments of the Pannonian Belidice Formation, which are overlain by the Quaternary sediments. They have a similar lithological content, however, the number of coaly clay and lignite intercalations is greater.

In the area of Kozmálovské vršky hills there crop out sporadic bodies of basaltic andesites and basalts, indicating the close of volcanic activity.

#### Pliocene

The age to Pliocene sediments could only be assigned on the basis of superposition. According to the drillhole data they participate in the geological structure of the northern sector of the geological map. During Pliocene there sedimented brown-yellow mottled clays, sands, gravel-sands and sporadic gravels. North of Kozarovec there occur coarse-detritic products of a Pliocene paleo-Hron river delta and between Levice and Mýtna Ludany there crop out freshwater limestones in a form of insulated travertine mounds, probably of Pliocene age.

#### QUATERNARY

There were different Quaternary developments in the areas of Dolnohronie (a broad alluvium of the Hron river, lower course), Ipeľská pahorkatina (plateau-like upland in the Hron-Ipeľ interfluvium) and Dolnoipeľská kotlina depression (alluvium of the Ipeľ river with confluences).

Marginal Quaternary sediments of the Hronská pahorkatina upland are shown along the map's western margin. In turn, at its northern and north-eastern margins there predominate volcanic rocks over the Quaternary sediments.

The Dolnohronie Quaternary sediments are composed of fluvial terrace accumulations and flood plain sediments of the Hron river. Most right-hand bank terrace gravel sediments are covered by thick loams and loesses. The loess almost continuously covers the surficial gravels and terrace loams that form a characteristic, loessy terrace plain. The surface of terrace plain is more or less deeply carved by the gullies of the right-hand confluences of the Hron river (most of which are NW-SE trending). In these gullies, the gravel sediments of terrace accumulations crop out locally. Most outcrops of terrace gravels are in the erosional, marginal walls and slopes of the plain located along the margin of the Hron river flood plain (Turá, Šárovce, Želiezovce, Hronovce). Small valley bottoms are covered by younger loamy deposits (Holocene). In their flood plains, as well as in the broad flood plain of the Hron river, the bogs and bog loams also occur.

Despite of being in the Podunajská nížina „masked“ by loams and loesses that overlie the gravel accumulations, the Hron river terrace and flood plain sediments are there best developed and preserved. Below its loamy-loessy series, the loessy terrace plain has a dissected and almost complete system of Pleistocene gravel terrace accumulations.

Into the uppermost, Lower Pleistocene stages we include one, or two terrace levels, which now represent only small, residual beds of alluvial gravels, or an erosional riverain plain underlying the stratigraphically complicated formation of loesses and loessy loams, fossil soils and bottom sediments, outwash loams of various lithologies and flood-plain to clayey loams. This was documented through drillings, in the geological sections, by lithofacial or paleopedological assays and by a thorough morphoanalysis of surface and subsurface forms in the Farná village and its northern surroundings. The thicknesses of Quaternary sediments exceed here, at the piedmont of the Hronská pahorkatina upland, 30 - 35 m.

The terrace system proper, made up of gravel accumulations of the right-hand side of the Hron river, deposited at the levels lower than the Hron river. The

base of Quaternary loessy terrace plain situated on the right-hand side of the Hron river was completed during the so called pleni-Pleistocene (roughly the last 0.6 mil. years), in a regime of alternating erosional-accumulational activities that also reflected the alternations of glacial and interglacial periods. The gravel and sand accumulations overlie the clays and silts of the Neogene fundament, eroded away in three, or four age levels, at different altitudes above the recent Hron river level. Stratigraphically, the existence of four, or five gravel terrace accumulations of the Hron river that deposited during the entire Middle Pleistocene, were documented. These include the accumulations of the so called upper and middle terrace stages. The thicknesses of Quaternary sediments in this, fairly large area of occurrence of the Hron terraces, ranges between 30 - 20 m (upper terraces) and (20 ~ 12 m (middle terraces).

The Upper Pliocene bottom gravel accumulation of the Hron river occupies a broad alluvial plain in the middle, or northern sector of the Dolnohronie. Its profusely waterlogged sandy-gravelly formation in the middle of Dolnohronie has a thickness of 5-10 m, while in the marginal „remnant“ lower terraces it may be even more than 10 m thick. The thickness of alluvial plain loams that cover the gravels ranges from 0.5 to 2 m. Lithofacially, they are alluvial plain loams of Holocene age, which have a silty to clayey grain size and locally, mainly in the surroundings of Želiezovce, they can be divided by age into the late and early Holocene.

North of Dolnohronie, in the surroundings of Levice and towards the Timače and Kozmálovce, the Quaternary has a different development, controlled by neotectonic movements of the so called Levice-Kozmálovce blocks, which is syngenic with the deposition of younger, Middle Pleistocene gravel accumulations of the Hron river. The Hron river superpositionally infilled by gravels the areas of downthrown blocks of the so called Kálna nad Hronom - Kozmálovce depressional structure. Documented were at least three, and in the marginal blocks even four generations of alluviums. The terrace type ones correspond to the accumulations of middle terraces, or even to a bottom accumulation. Maximum thickness of Quaternary sediments reaches some 40 m (Kozmálovce depression). The divide between the downthrown Dolnohronia area and the terrace valley runs as far south as the Hrádok-Levice horst „treshhold“.

A system of uplands situated in the foreland of the volcanic rocks of the Börzsöny and Štiavnické vrchy hills and separated from the Dolnohronie and Podunajská nížina lowland belongs to the Ipeľská pahorkatina upland. Near Pukanec, the northerly situated, relatively downthrown Bätovská pahorkatina upland and the Pukanec depression have more than 100 m thick fills composed of loamy, deluvial-proluvial clastics.

Most important Pliocene-Quaternary sediments in the Ipeľská pahorkatina upland are the travertines located in a fault-bound belt running through the surroundings of Levice. These include the so called Staré Levice travertines represented by the Zlatý onyx near Šiklós, the travertines in Kalinčiakovo, Santovka, Bory, and Dudince.

Fewer, discontinuous loess outcrops occur in the upland. Most Quaternary rocks are here represented by various deluviums.

The Dolnoipeľská kotlina depression begins in the Ipeľ river valley, from the so called Šahianska brána gate, and is shown to continue as far as the Ipeľský Sokolec. The terrace gravel accumulations in five stages of upper and middle terraces, spanning the whole Middle Pleistocene, were documented.

Most Upper Pleistocene bottom gravel fills of the Ipeľ river have the thicknesses ranging from 6 to 11 m.

The loessy accumulations and fossil soils occur in important and index outcrops, such as those at Farná, Levice, Kubáňovo, Vyškovce n.l., Ipeľský Sokolec, Malá Turá and others.

#### TECTONIC SETTING

The basement of Neogene sedimentary fill has a character of Alpine nappe structure with the units thrust one over the other.

The faults segmenting the sediments of the region developed in three paleostress fields with various orientations of the strain component. As a result, a system of horsts and grabens, limited by faults striking NW and NE, developed in the eastern part of the region. The youngest, N-S trending faults, controlled the sedimentation in the western part of the region.

Some faults immobilized before Quaternary revived to give way to the development of Pleistocene travertine deposits.



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## GEOLOGICKÁ MAPA PODUNAJSKEJ NÍŽINY - VÝCHODNÁ ČASŤ

## GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE DANUBE LOWLAND - EASTERN PART

GEOLOGICKÁ SLUŽBA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY - BRATISLAVA

