

# Remapping of the Humpleu Cave, Romania: Rapport 2008

## The camp

The remapping camp was held between July 12 and 20, 2008. Around 25 cavers from Romania, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Hungary participated, sadly enough, the french team (flight canceled) and the Portugues (accident) could not come. Due to the good weather conditions, many objectives have been fulfilled. With up to five simultaneously active mapping groups, a total of 2.4 km were remapped. This is a bit less than last year, because the parts that are to be remapped are now quite far from the entrance, so that traveling to those sites takes between 2 to 4 hours. The total remapped length is now approximately 21 km, and another 6-8 km of old data can probably be used, so that more than half of the cave is now remapped.

Figure 1 (annexed) shows the currently remapped part of the cave, with the passages remapped 2008 in red.

## What was done?

- In the stream passage around the first semi-sump, several chimneys were climbed with a pole and subsequently mapped. Several connections to the fossil parts were established.
- All passages between semi-sumps 7 and the junction with Avenul Poienita were mapped.
- Lateral passages of the fossil part (Sala Halasi) were mapped. This part of the fossil is now finished.
- Some lateral passages in the upstream fossil parts, which can only be reached by passing the first two semi-sumps, were remapped. They are still far from being finished.
- A continuation with heavy airdraught in the spring was mapped. The passage ends on an crawl which should be opened, but on the other side of the access chimney, some more passages are to be mapped.
- The upstream sump was dived. Sadly, it ends too tight (and too muddy) to follow. Another sump in the Marmite upstream was dived: a sinuous passage (max. depth -24 m) does not resurface. A total of 160 m was dived.
- A dive in the spring sump did not yield a continuation; the water seems to arrive through the blocks.

## Future activities

Remapping will continue!

In the coming years, the weather conditions are primordial for the success, since all the remaining parts (with exception of some chimneys in the fossil part) imply passing the semi-sumps. This (as well as the distance from the entrance) will be the main reason to see in the future fewer participants (less supporting members), but more well-trained cavers (both for aquatic and vertical exploration/mapping). 2009 will use a bivouac to remap the parts towards the far end of the cave, in a distance between 3-8 h from the entrance.

Unterseen, 21.8.2008, Ph. Häuselmann