

Ștefan CONSTANTINESCU – *Geomorphological analysis of cliff shore between Cape Midia and Vama Veche*, Edit. Universitară, București, 2012, 172 p., 123 fig., 16 foto.

The present book represents Ștefan Constantinescu PhD thesis. It has 171 pages and is structured in two parts:

- 1st part (corresponding to the first two chapters) presents the theoretical framework of cliff shores geomorphology and of the main factors influencing their morphology and dynamics;
- 2nd part (corresponding to the other three chapters) consists in the creation and analysis of digital elevation models and in extracting main specific morphometric indices (*Plan Curvature, Profile Curvature, LS Factor* etc.).

Some of the proposed working techniques may look common nowadays, being used in many PhD thesis, bachelor degree studies and master dissertations. But, this book should be judged in the context of the 2003-2004 period (when the thesis was written), when producing especially digital terrain models based on own measurements or on navigation maps was scarce. A necessary task was represented by the terminological clarifications, the Romanian cliff shore being studied in the context of the international nomenclature. Advancing new notions or translating others from English gives surplus value to the book, these notions completing the Romanian geomorphological vocabulary (*shore platforms, potholes, ramps, furrows*, etc).

Chapter four, presenting the geomorphological analysis of cliff shore, is the densest in the whole book. The author succeeds here to offer for the first time a unitary image of the entire cliff shore evolution between Cape Midia and Vama Veche. The evolution rates, computed by compared

analysis of various cartographical products, are very useful for integrated coastal zone management studies. In this chapter we can also find a new surprising approach in the geomorphological literature, which combines historical cartography with deltiology elements. The author is convincing us that a history of Constanța and Eforie beaches or some reconstitutions of the first touristic activities in Techirghiol represent not only easily accessible elements for every geographer, but information which offers delightful moments for all the lovers of the Romanian coast. This way, we get knowledge of the first hotel, the treatment period at *cold or hot baths (băile reci sau calde)* or we can reconstitute an estimative budget for a tourist in holiday at the beginning of the XXth century.

The author is asking himself, from the very beginning of the book, if this cliff shore is still fascinating as it was more than a century ago. The pro and against arguments are found all over the book and we do not want to divulge all, letting you the pleasure to discover them. It seems like all his answers take shape when he integrates the whole cliff shore in a higher geographical context, the fascinating Dobrogean space. Keeping the mirage of this Dobrogean presence, which Mircea Eliade calls a *prologue to One thousand and one nights*, the author finds his answers through the final affirmation from the end of the book, fully acceding to George Vâlsan words: *Who knows Dobrogea, loves it forever / Cine cunoaște Dobrogea o iubește pentru totdeauna!*

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