

Work area/kitchen and dining area



Determination of materials



Ichthyological research



The Vrlika Ecological Station is particularly suitable for accommodating students during field courses and accommodating research teams conducting research in the region on biology, geology, geography or other sciences. The students of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science at the University of Zagreb regularly stay at the facility during field courses in zoology, ecology and botany.

Field research at the base of Mt. Dinara



Field courses for students at the Department of Biology



To date, many research teams from the Departments of Biology, Geology and Geography of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb have stayed at the facility, in addition to teams from the Department of Biology, University of Osijek, State Institute for Nature Protection, BIUS biologicals ociety and many other researchers.

Contact: Professor Dr. Milorad Mrakovčić  
Telephone: +385(0) 1 4877 732  
E-mail: milorad.mrakovic@biol.pmf.hr

FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

## The „Vrlika“ Ecological Station



The Vrlika Ecological Station stands at the base of Mt. Dinara, in the village Ježević. This former school was badly damaged in the Homeland War, and was refurbished in 2009 and transformed into an ecological station.

Though initially planned to be an accommodation and education facility for students at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb during field courses, over time it has proven to be an exceptionally useful facility for similar field courses and for students of other departments at the Faculty of Science.



The Vrlika Ecological Station is situated in the village Ježević, hamlet Vučemilovići, in the territory of the town of Vrlika, in the northernmost part of Split - Dalmatia County. The geographic position of the villages and the Vrlika Ecological Station is very interesting. It stands at the very start of the Peruća Reservoir Lake on the Cetina River, and is surrounded by the mountain massifs Dinara and Svilaja.

The flora and fauna of this region is rich and diverse, with a large number of endemic, endangered and protected species, particularly cave fauna. There are a number of speleological structures in the vicinity, including the Golubinjak pit, Gospodska cave, Čulumova cave and the springs of the two largest Dalmatian rivers, Cetina and Krka.

The capacity of the Ecological Station is 52 beds. The building is divided into two sections:

- the first, larger section is intended for students and includes two sleeping rooms with a total of 44 beds, a large common area that is used for working and dining, which includes a fully equipped kitchen (2 refrigerators, 2 ovens, 2 dishwashers) and a washroom (3 toilets and 4 shower stalls).
- the second, smaller section intended for group leaders, with a capacity of 8 beds, separated kitchen and washroom.



Krčić – spring of the Krka River (just 40 km from the Vrlika Station)

Geomorphologically, this region is dominated by karstic limestone terrain, with numerous karst forms, the most significant of which are the karst fields (Cetinsko Polje, Paško polje, Hrvatačko Polje, Sinjsko Polje, and others). These fields are also important as a catchment area, from which the water is drained through underground watercourses.

There are also a number of historical points of interest in the area, such as the Church of the Holy Salvation, erected in the 9<sup>th</sup> century at the spring of the Cetina River, the ruins of the Glavaš-Dinarić fortress standing at the very base of Mt. Dinara, the Gradina-Vrlički window over Vrlika and many others.



Large sleeping room for students



Group leaders area



Washroom



Cetinsko polje



Spring of the Cetina River (10 km from the Vrlika Station)

- There is a grocery shop near the Ecological Station.
- The Ecological Station has been equipped with the basic laboratory and field equipment (dissecting scope, microscope, determination keys for plants and animals).